









# Ousted RSPCA man says he was a scapegoat

By John Young

Two of the three senior officials of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) who were summarily dismissed on Wednesday yesterday complained of intrigue and excessive secrecy in the society's council.

Mr Julian Hopkins, the £22,000-a-year executive director, said the dismissal letter had come as a bombshell. Mr James Clyde, the financial controller, who earned £18,000, said he was still in a state of shock.

Mr Harry Gape, the society's inspectorate controller, the third official, was not available for comment.

Mr Hopkins said it appeared that Mr Angela Hart, the society's chairman, and Mr Rachel Smith, its treasurer, who recently held an investigation into staff complaints of extravagance, had been looking for scapegoats.

Neither he nor his colleagues had been allowed to see their report or to challenge its findings. It was the job of paid officials to implement the society's policies, but a number of radical members of the council had for some

time been seeking to discredit them.

Mr Hopkins, who lives in a house rented from the society, said he had not yet decided whether to claim wrongful dismissal at an industrial tribunal. He had a right to be told the reasons for his dismissal within a fortnight, after which he would take legal advice.

Mr Clyde said that the notices were handed to Mr Hopkins and himself at about 4.30pm on Wednesday after a six-hour meeting of the council. Mr Gape was informed orally at the same time that he was redundant.

Mr Clyde said: "The letter informing me that my contract was at an end had been typed the day before. I was told I must not come back to the building. When I asked the chairman for the reason he said the council had no confidence in me."

"We are three fairly strong, outspoken people, and we have quite clearly been undermined. I am afraid it is a sign of what the council has been doing for a long time now, making decisions in a vacuum."

Mr Clyde said that he had

found a padlock on his office door yesterday morning, and a man outside Mr Hopkins's office with instructions to prevent even his secretary from entering.

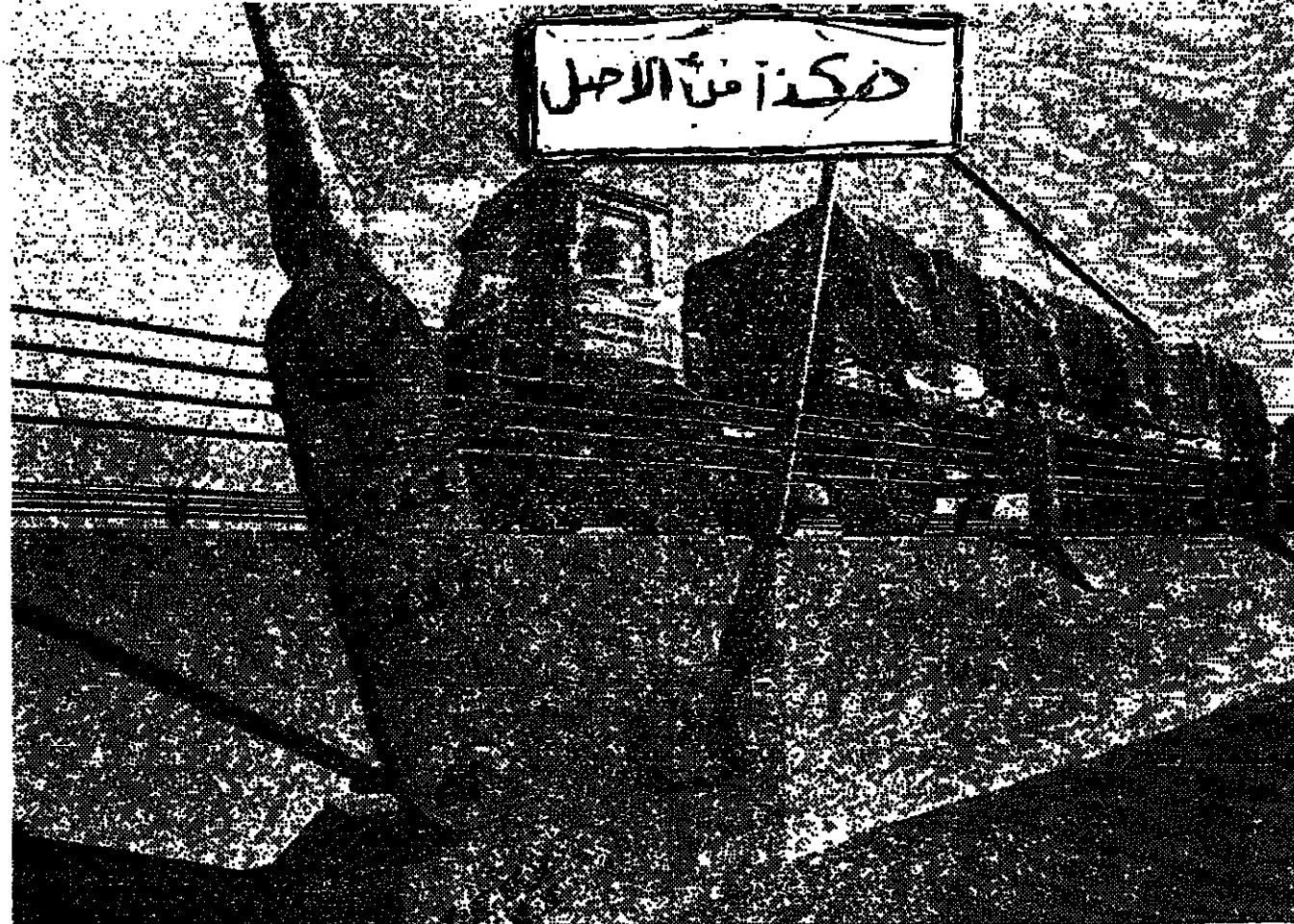
The society yesterday would make no official comment. However, it was suggested that the investigation by Mr Hart and Mrs Smith was response to low morale among staff.

The dismissals are likely to be seen as another episode in the long struggle for power within the world's oldest and most famous animal welfare organization.

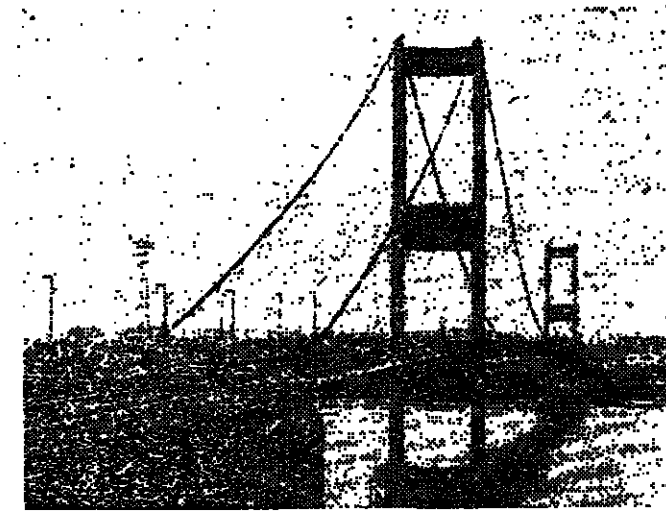
The basic disagreement, though there are endless ramifications, is between the conservative establishment, referred to derisively as "the cat and dog brigade", and those who want to see the society take a less equivocal attitude on such matters as hunting and shooting.

The subject of animal welfare is becoming increasingly political, and people such as Mr Hopkins, who are identified with the conservative wing, have been accused of trying to influence the society's policies.

## Traffic restricted on corroding Severn Bridge



The 16-year-old Severn Bridge, which carries 11 million vehicles a year, is being restricted to a single lane in each direction at peak times because corrosion to its "hangers" means it no longer meets safety requirements (Craig Seton writes). At least £5m will have to be spent on redesigning and replacing the damaged hangers, the two-inch-diameter steel ropes (such as those above) which fasten the bridge deck to the suspension cables. Traffic restrictions will apply between 4 am and 8 am on weekdays, when heavy lorry use is at its maximum. According to the Department of Transport, latest tests on the bridge's 360 hangers, 49 of which



## Defence Secretary spares warships after visit

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy's amphibious assault ships, HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid, due to be scrapped after last year's defence review, have won a reprieve. Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, is expected to announce the move on Monday.

It was disclosed last month that Mr Nott had called for an assessment of how much it would cost to keep both 12,000-ton vessels afloat. The Defence Secretary is under-

stood to have been impressed by the design and performance of HMS Fearless when he visited it and it was as a result that he had a change of heart.

Naval officers believe, however, that to keep the Intrepid and the Fearless they will have to sacrifice smaller destroyers and by no means all are convinced by that order of priorities. The assault ships would be used in wartime to transport

Royal Marines and their heavy equipment across the North Sea and the Marines will be delighted to hear that they have been saved.

However, the Fearless is already 17 years old and the Intrepid 15 years, and with no keels laid to replace them the future for such vessels must be short. The Navy would have preferred to use any spare cash to save the Invincible, the £175m aircraft carrier which is being sold to

Australia, amid controversy in both hemispheres.

The Intrepid has already been paid off and is now awaiting disposal, while the Fearless, now being used as a training ship for Dartmouth cadets, is scheduled to leave the fleet next year. Both ships have a built-in dock below decks, from which the Marines would float into battle on their assault craft. The alternative is for them to use roll-on, roll-off ferries

## Europe ban on seal cull sought

By Tony Samstag

Opposition to the annual Canadian seal hunt, a ritual as regular as the hunt itself, reached a crescendo yesterday with the announcement by Mr Stanley Johnson, Conservative MP for East Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, that he and a dozen colleagues are to ask the European Parliament next Thursday to ban "products coming from seals whose stocks are depleted or threatened".

A petition calling for a ban on the importation of seal skins was delivered to the Prime Minister by animal welfare campaigners, led by Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. The petition, it was claimed, represented 12 million trade unionists.

Mr Johnson, who returned yesterday from a fact-finding trip to the Magdalen Islands, in the Gulf of St Lawrence, said: "I have been able to witness on the ice floes the arrival of thousands of harp seals which, together with seals in the 'front ice' off the Newfoundland coast, make

up the Northwest Atlantic herd."

"These seals have travelled thousands of miles from the Arctic to reach their breeding grounds. The pupping has begun and the females are congregating on the white-patched pups beside them."

About 200,000 harp and hooded seals are to be taken in this year's hunt, due to begin in the next few days. For the first time the conservationist lobby is represented in what traditionally had been seen as an animal welfare issue.

Seal pups are hunted for their thick white or blue fur, which they lose several weeks after birth. The traditional culling method of clubbing them to death in order to minimize skin damage has been denounced by animal welfare groups as inhumane, despite government supervision intended to ensure that the pups are unconscious or dead before they are skinned.

The conservationist view, as argued yesterday by Dr Sydney Holt, chairman of the

Marine Mammals Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, is that data are lacking on whether the seal populations concerned are stable.

That view is shared by such organizations as the World Wildlife Fund (the public relations agency of IUCN) and by the government.

The 63-member group of European Democratic (Conservative) MPs decided in London yesterday to have a free vote when the European Parliament next week votes on a proposal that all EEC countries should ban imports of harp and hooded seal products (George Clark writes).

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of such organizations as the World Wildlife Fund, said: "We have received hundreds of letters on this emotional subject. The lobbying is enormous. But we decided to leave it to the individual conscience of our members."

The Canadian Government is asking members of the European Parliament to reject the proposal.

## Hillhead by-election

### A winner for the SNP — but not yet

From Jonathan Wills, Glasgow

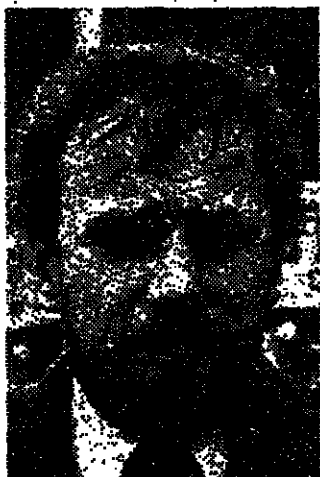
The satire flies proudly above the Scottish National Party's tiny, shabby shop front office in Dumbarton Road. Inside, the volunteers fall over each other in their eagerness to help.

By unfortunate coincidence the blue flag with the white St Andrews cross means, in international code, "My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water". That may have been appropriate three years ago, when the SNP was hampered in the North and only Mr Donald Stewart and Mr Gordon Wilson survived to tell Scotland's story to the Commons.

Not any more: a wary optimism is creeping back among the followers of the satire, and the memory of that patient cave dwelling spider, Robert the Bruce's companion, is being dusted off.

Dumbarton Road for most of its length is the sort of place where "the polis" is around in pairs. It is clearly a place where Mr George Leslie feels very much at home. The SNP's candidate in the Hillhead by-election is a local boy made good who still has the common touch for the mean streets of Partick West.

His veterinary practice may be in Shawlands, Hill



Mr George Leslie: The local boy made good

head's mirror image on the south side of the Clyde, but as he is an old boy of Hillhead High School it is helping his campaign, as is his cheery manner with punters and pollsters alike.

If being a good fellow were enough Mr Leslie would be home and dry. But this campaign is many-issued and fewer than a fifth of the voters appear to believe that a Scottish parliament would have more success than a Westminster one when tackling the intractable issues of unemployment, money supply bad housing and edu-

cation cuts. "If we cannot carry Glasgow then the SNP measures will not work", says Mr Leslie, who is no stranger to political battles in this city.

The trouble is that when the going gets rough the Glaswegian working class has always turned to its traditional champion, the Labour Party, rather than to the SNP. Talking to Mr Leslie, one gets the distinct impression that the Scots exasperate him more than the English.

"I get upset", he admits, "at the Scots accepting that they should live in a country with total depression, decline and unemployment when we have so many resources that could be deployed. I get depressed at Scots saying they could not afford independence, they would not have the leader to do it — that kind of parish pump mentality that lack of self-confidence that the Scots have today."

If the SNP had its way and the Scottish parliament returns to Edinburgh, what would Mr Leslie's politics be? "I don't know", he replies. "I suppose I would agree with the ideology of Robert McIntyre, our first SNP MP in 1945, which is that what is good for Scotland is good, full stop."

"I am certainly not in favour of Thatcherite monetarism, but I am not a Bennite either. What I have is a record in community politics. As a councillor I was advocating things like rehabilitating old tenements, upgrading branch railway lines in the city and setting up community councils, all accepted now but not when I was on Glasgow Corporation."

Mr Leslie makes common cause with the Labour Party on devolution. If there is a majority of Scottish MPs for an assembly after the next election they should go ahead and form a Scottish parliament, he says.

What about Mr Roy Jenkins of the SDP? "If he had not been here I would have found this campaign twice as hard. The SNP bandwagon has loosened the allegiances of Labour and Tory voters, but Mr Roy Jenkins cannot win them over as an international statesman conferring his dignity on Hillhead."

Mr Leslie's failure to work out in detail the form of government policy that his independent Scotland should have will lose him few votes in Hillhead. The polls show he is moving up fast. George Leslie should go far in politics, but probably not quite far enough to win this time.

## Private Eye damages for libelled minister

By John Witherow

Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, obtained substantial damages and an apology from Private Eye yesterday for a libel published in a satirical magazine nearly two years ago.

Lord Justice Russell was told in a statement read in the High Court that the magazine alleged in May, 1980, that Mr Blaker, then Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, tried to obstruct further inquiries into the death of a Hongkong police inspector.

It is also claimed that he refused to answer questions about the matter put to him in Parliament by Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Stirlingshire, West, because the results of such an inquiry could damage his father's and family's interest in Hongkong.

Mr Richard Rampton, for the plaintiff, said the allegations were without foundation. Mr Blaker's father had died in 1962 and Private Eye reported his death in 1979.

Neither Mr Blaker nor any

member of his family owns property in Hong Kong and he had not sought to obstruct inquiries into the death of Inspector John MacLennan.

Mr Rampton said: "The defendants now accept that their allegations amounted to an unjustified attack on Mr Blaker and ought never to have been published."

The defendants, comprising Mr Richard Ingrams, editor of Private Eye, the printers, distributors and publishers, "offer their apologies to Mr Blaker for the considerable distress and embarrassment their disgraceful allegations have caused," a joint statement said.

□ The High Court libel action brought by the television producer Mr Desmond Wilcox, against Private Eye, was adjourned yesterday until after Easter for his lawyers to consider the magazine's amended defence. Mr Wilcox is alleging libel in five articles published in 1975, when he headed the BBC's general features department.

## Warning of more kennel raids despite sentences

One of the leaders of a raid on a kennels where dogs are bred for experiments said yesterday that similar raids will continue until the law on vivisection is changed.

Robert August, secretary of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, was speaking after he and seven others were given suspended prison sentences at Hereford Crown Court for their part in an early morning raid on the Harewood Park Kennels, near Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, last April.

The court was told that 10 beagle puppies, worth £1,000, were stolen from the kennels. The animals have never been recovered.

August, aged 33, a computer manager, of Landcroft Road, East Dulwich, south London, said the beagles were now all family pets and steps had been taken to make sure they could not be identified. He said he did not know where they were.

After the case he said: "I am not sorry I did it. I am only sorry I was caught. However, I shall not be able to take part in future raids because of the suspended

sentence, and because I shall lose my job. But there is a growing number of people willing to take part in raids and they will certainly go on."

"The law on vivisection has not been changed for more than a hundred years and we shall continue with our activities until it is."

August and John Hale, aged 31, a fitter, of Rednal, Birmingham, and Aubrey Thomas, aged 24, an export agent, of The Brambles, West Drayton, Middlesex, who was treasurer of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, were each given 12-month prison sentences, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to pay £150 costs and £50 in fines.

Richard Ferry, aged 30, of Wood Green, David Callender, aged 22, of Hale, Liverpool; Lynne Matthews, aged 26, of Warrington, Lancashire; Nigel Kennett, aged 36, of Ivor, Buckinghamshire; and Ann August, aged 37, of Landcroft Road, East Dulwich, were all given nine-month sentences, suspended for 18 months. Ferry and Thomas had denied conspiracy to steal the puppies. The others admitted theft.

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# Ne dealy start on tofect satellite broadcasting

## TELEVISION

The Government has decided in principle that Britain should start an early start with direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) with the aim of having a service in operation by 1985, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in a statement in the Commons. It has concluded that because of the importance of making this early start the best course would be to have two channels initially.

Mr Whitelaw said: The House will recall the report of the Home Office study of DBS published last May. Realising that that report had been largely constructive and positive. The Government now sees a need for early decisions if it is to take advantage of opportunities which DBS offers. This country is to be grasped in good time, in a situation in which there will be keen international competition.

The Government has therefore decided, in principle, that this country should make an early start with DBS, with a view to having a service in operation in 1985. Because of the importance of making this early start the Government has concluded that the best course would be to start with two channels initially; the number of channels could be increased to five channels permitted by international allocation, as and when demand justified it.

The services would be transmitted at powers sufficient to permit both individual reception and community reception with the distribution of the signal to make a further announcement shortly about the future role of cable.

On the industrial side, various interests in the aerospace and related industries have shown that they are ready to play their part in this challenging new venture and we shall be working closely with them and with the domestic electronics industry to ensure that the potential benefits are effectively realized for the United Kingdom.

On the broadcasting side, it is clear that DBS must develop in a way that is consistent with our existing broadcasting arrangements, especially as regards the provision of a high quality service and the maintenance of proper programme standards.

## Staining a problem for pet food

### QUESTIONS

The Government would be supporting a Bill to increase penalties for trading in unfit meat, Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Lab) in the exchanges, asked what representations have been received from the pet food industry in regard to the staining of unfit meat.

Mrs Fenner: Representatives of the pet food industry have indicated that they would not be opposed to a requirement to stain material emanating from knacker yards and unfit carcass meat (but not offals) emanating from slaughterhouses.

They have also commented on the type of stain which might be appropriate for this purpose.

Mr Atkinson: The House will be delighted with that positive response from the industry. Is she aware that although dogs are colour blind and therefore unable to distinguish between green and violet, any suggested staining proposals should take account of that many pet owners could object to putting out violet or green coloured food for their pets?

Can she reassure pet owners that whatever the stain used, it may be decolourised by the pet food?

Mrs Fenner: We are considering what stain should be prescribed and we are taking account of the wishes of the pet food manufacturers that they would like the stain to be one which disappears when the meat is heat treated and therefore does not give an unsightly appearance to the pet food. But we shall certainly see the stain is immediately identifiable on raw meat.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Has she had a chance to see the letter from a worker at Heathrow in regard to the illegal transportation of meat via Bombay and Bahrain? Is she prepared to take action to stop this illegal action is stopped?

Mrs Fenner: The Government is concerned that trade in unfit meat should be stopped. We are preparing meat sterilization regulations with a degree of urgency in order to stop any illegal trade in unfit meat and we shall be supporting his Bill to increase the penalties for these offences.

## Bills remove barriers to marriage

### HOUSE OF LORDS

Two personal Bills, the object of which was to enable people related by marriage but not by blood to marry, received a second reading in the House of Lords.

The first, the John Francis Dares and Gillian Dares (Marriage Enabling) Bill, was introduced by Lady Wootton of Abinger (Lab) who recalled that in the past three years four Bills had been presented to the House which had sought to enlarge the scope of relationships within which it was permissible to marry, particularly those who were connected by marriage but not by blood.

John Dares, aged 56, and Gillian Dares, aged 49, wished to marry but were unable to do so because of the law which prevented a stepfather and stepdaughter marrying.

Lord Elyne-Jones, for the Opposition, said this was a matter which required the intervention of the House in the interests of compassion and decent human relationships, to remove the legal impediments to the marriage of these two petitioners which imposed hardship upon them and served no purpose of public policy.

The Bishop of London (the Rt Rev Graham Leonard) said it was in the interests of the Church where it was right that such marriages should take place. The Archbishop of Canterbury had announced the intention to set up a committee to advise on this matter to see whether some alternative to the personal Bill procedure could be devised.

There would be general sympathy for the two people concerned and in the circumstances it was right to support the Bill, Lord Belsford, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said.

It was widely recognized that the personal Bill procedure left something to be desired.

In the second case, the Hugh Small and Norma Small (Marriage Enabling) Bill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick (Lab) moved a second reading, and the object was to enable the couple to be married although they were related by marriage. There were no ties of blood.

Technically, Hugh was the stepson of Norma, but at no time has she ever stood in loco parentis to him. They were mature adults of equal age and there was no ethical, moral, religious or social objection to marriage between them. Such a marriage would be for their common good and that of Norma's two daughters.

Both Bills were read a second time.

The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Bill was read the third time and passed.

## Thatcher: S Africa tour a mistake

### PM'S QUESTIONS

Mr Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, endorsed at question time what Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had said about the South African cricket tour by England cricketers, perhaps being a mistake. She said she was not in a position to say "Yes" or "No" when asked whether she considered the tour a mistake.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab): Her mealy-mouthed, half-hearted fence-sitting comments in this House have been greeted by Labour MPs to reply "Yes" or "No". When asked whether she considered the tour a mistake, she said she was not in a position to say "Yes" or "No".

Mr Thatcher: I am not a mealy-mouthed fence-sitter. I have given a written answer yesterday strongly suggesting, whatever her sports minister and Lord Carrington may think, that I do not privately condone this tour and the racist regime. She should give a straight answer to a straight question. Does she condemn this tour? Yes or No?

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## Rate grants system in inner London damages Tories

By David Walker

Renewed criticism of the grants system devised by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, is certain, after the announcement by Conservative-controlled councils in inner London of rates increases substantially higher than in the inner boroughs controlled by Labour.

Tower Hamlets council, which is Labour controlled, yesterday said it would ask its ratepayers for 9 per cent more in 1982-83. That compares with the 17 per cent figure for the commercial rate increase recommended yesterday by the City of London, whose members stand on no party platforms but pride themselves on financial rectitude.

Tower Hamlets is one of the Labour-controlled councils in London that, classified by Mr Heseltine as "over-spenders", have gained from his grants distribution for 1982-83, an election year for the London boroughs.

Domestic ratepayers will pay nearly 21 per cent more in Conservative Westminster, 7 per cent extra in neighbouring Lambeth, which is Labour controlled. Wandsworth, Conservative, will probably next week vote a rates increase of about 15 per cent, while neighbouring Lambeth, Labour, plans a cut in its rate of 10 per cent.

Southwark, Labour, will rise by 10 per cent while Conservative Kensington and Chelsea's will increase by 25 per cent.

Conservative councillors' allies on the Government's benches are doubly angry because the portion of the rate attributable to spending by the boroughs has been cut in several cases.

Wandsworth council hopes to cut its "borough rate", the amount it needs to pay for the services it provides, — by

more than 40 per cent. It blames the rises on the increased amounts demanded by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and the Greater London Council, both Labour-controlled.

Mr Patrick Roney, chairman of the City of London's Finance Committee, said: "The severe demands placed on City of London ratepayers are caused by the direct result of heavy precepts by ILEA and the GLC and the resulting grant losses."

But Labour-controlled boroughs have cut their borough rates, too. Tower Hamlets by 17 per cent. Even adding the precepts, they are planning to ask ratepayers for proportionately less in total.

An explanation was given earlier this week by Mr Nicholas Freeman, leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, when he announced that rates would rise, but through no fault of the Conservatives.

"It will be noticed that for other boroughs the increase is lower than ours. The explanation is to be found in the relatively small part of the total bill is attributable to the high-spending boroughs of the borough proportion of the rate bill is very much greater than in the case in this borough."

Several of the Labour boroughs gained unexpectedly from the grants formula, a point acknowledged by Mr Heseltine in the past when he said it illustrated the objective nature of his system.

Lambeth's finances improved markedly as a result of the adjustments to the rate support system made last year to give more aid to designated inner city areas.

Other boroughs, such as Camden, which receives no grant, have used cash reserves to protect ratepayers. Some councils have cut spending.

## Williams urges jobs for blacks

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

Positive discrimination to encourage blacks into the public services was advocated last night by Mrs Shirley Williams, joint leader of the Social Democratic Party.

She said that public purchasing and government contracts should be made conditional on companies having clear and positive non-discriminatory employment policies.

Mrs Williams, delivering the Gaiskill memorial lecture at Nottingham University, did not say such policies would operate and made no mention of legislation, but she said their success would depend on effective monitoring.

"Many of us in central and local government wrongly believed that the different races in Britain would settle down to a tolerant acceptance of one another," she said, but a growing number of young people were being attracted to the streets.

Unemployment among blacks was 40 per cent, or even higher, and was concentrated among the unskilled, the less qualified and the ethnic minorities.

An underclass of young people is emerging, a lost generation.

Authoritarian approaches to the problem "may buy time, and we need to buy time. But they offer no solutions, and they threaten the fragile structure of a democracy based on consent, by putting a lid on the cauldron."

Mr Barry Prosser died in Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, from a crippling blow to the stomach caused by one of the prison's people, a murder trial jury was told yesterday.

Dr Derek Barrowcliffe, a Home Office pathologist, told Leicester Crown Court that it was "highly, highly unlikely" that Mr Prosser's injuries were self-inflicted and he ruled out the possibility that they were caused by a fall over a chamberpot.

Mr Prosser, aged 32, was found dead in his cell on August 19, 1980. The court heard that he died from a burst stomach and a perforated gut.

Dr Barrowcliffe said Mr Prosser was bruised both internally and externally from head to toe. It was most likely that more than one person was responsible, although it was possible that he had been taken off guard by a blow to his genitals and reduced to a "crippled hulk" by one man.

Howard Jackson, aged 33, Eric Smith, aged 23, all officers at the prison, deny murder.

Dr Barrowcliffe says the three denied entering Mr Prosser's cell on the night he died before going in to discipline officers called by Mr Jackson. But Mr Douglas

## Industry is asked to aid wildlife

By Hugh Clayton

Dr David Bellamy yesterday moderated the wide-eyed enthusiasm and fruity tones that have become his trademark as the "Botanic Man" of television and appeared to industry for money.

He told a meeting at the Institute of Directors in London that cash was needed for thousands of wildlife conservation projects. "Without the natural resources of the world the future of all the multinationals will be pretty bleak," he said.

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## Coal's future lies in expanded markets

### COAL BILL

The Government had confidence in the coal industry's ability to meet the competitive pricing of supply. The board needed to demonstrate its ability to manage the industry's resources available to it, and of particular to ensure its investment projects were sound.

Mr Alexander Eadie, an Opposition spokesman (Middleton, Lab) said the delay in the development of the Vale of Belvoir in North East Leicestershire had caused the proportions of a national scandal. The Government should make an announcement to go ahead now in the interests of the miners but also to show the future economic recovery of the country.

There had been a propaganda effort by Mr Ronald Butt, the Times columnist, who was vilifying the industry for the competitive pricing of supply. The article was so heavily biased it brought a response from Mr Joe Gormley, President of the NUM, who said a demolition job was being done on the industry.

Mr Gormley pointed out the Inspector at the public inquiry did conduct a thorough investigation. Mr Butt left the impression most of it came from the objects. In fact those who spoke in favour of development were vilified from society.

Mr Michael Welsh (Don Valley, Lab) said greater efforts should be made to ensure the export of coal, particularly to Third World countries.

Mr Raymond Powell (Oremore, Lab) said the Welsh believed the development of a new deep mine at Margam. The Government should discuss it with the NCB and the NUM as a matter of urgency.

The Bill was read the third time.

Mr Gormley said he did not wish to anticipate what will be discovered in the investigation. But I am sure it should be looked at if only to satisfy curiosity that in some respects the present arrangements are satisfactory and if they are not, then we can do something about it.

Mr Guy Barnett (Greenwich, Lab) said the inquiry deal with the adequacy or inadequacy of facilities for research assistants.

Mr Pym: Yes, that is relevant. I have had quite a lot of criticism that in some cases a strain is being put on existing facilities not justified by the nature of the inquiries.

## Inquiry into research assistants

Mr Francis Pym, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, said he would be conducting an inquiry into the conditions of research assistants in the Commons.

He said: A number of allegations have been made and I thought it right to institute an inquiry. I have asked the Services Committee to undertake this. There are security implications.

Mr Nicholas Winterston (Macclesfield, C) had asked for clarification of the position of research assistants. He said that many complaints were being passed to MPs about the presence of research assistants in the House and they seemed to work strange hours. Many MPs were concerned about the security of the House being being abused.

Mr Clinton Davis (Hackney Central, Lab): There is need for guidelines on employment of research assistants. There has been much use of the Tory Party. There have been made about hard-working and decent American students who are here to study and help MPs. They should not be made scapegoats for inadequate research conditions and facilities.

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Judges power to refer...

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## Judges get new power to defer sentences

By Frances Gibb

MPs yesterday agreed to new powers for judges and magistrates to suspend part of a prison sentence. This was despite a barrage of criticism from the Opposition and warnings that the prison population would rise to more than 45,000.

In the committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill, Labour MPs, who were defeated on the new clause by 11 votes to nine, accused the Government of changing from its original policy of automatic parole for shorter sentence prisoners because of pressure from the judiciary.

Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and a former Minister of State at the Home Office, said that Lord Justice Lawton, a senior judge in the Court of Appeal, had "blown the gaff" when he had spoken of a meeting of the appeal court judges with the Lord Chief Justice and indicated "how they had voted him slowly down".

"Five or six people in England decided that a proposal which was widely canvassed, supported by a considerable section of this House, certainly by the Home Office, and was the policy of the Home Secretary, should not be carried."

The reason, he said, was that the judiciary had indicated that if there was automatic parole for shorter-term prisoners who had served one third of their sentences, judges would increase sentences accordingly.

With that ultimatum, from the judiciary, Mr Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Battersea South, added, the Home Office capitulated and the minister dramatically changed his view.

Dr Shirley Summerskill, a Labour home affairs spokeswoman, said to learn how legislation was drawn up through newspapers and television. No one had told them those consultations were taking place.

The new powers, which the Government hopes will ease overcrowding in prisons, come into force on March 29, by the implementation of a section in the Criminal Law Act, 1977, which has never been activated.

Provisions in the Criminal Justice Bill will make the use of the powers more flexible by cutting from six to three months the minimum sentence that can be partly

suspended and cutting from six weeks to 28 days the period that an offender must spend in custody.

Bodies opposed to the new powers, which include the Law Society, the Justice Clerks' Society and the National Association of Probation Workers, were cited by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk.

They feared the powers would lead to a rise in prison numbers, he said. Faced with borderline cases, courts would go for the easy option and give a partly suspended sentence rather than take the bolder step of a fully suspended or non-custodial sentence.

Mr Kilroy-Silk, who is chairman of the all-party penal affairs group, abstained from the vote because he supported the intention behind the clause. He said Home Office research had shown that when suspended sentences were first introduced courts used them where previously they would have imposed a non-custodial sentence.

Replying for the Government, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, said one could not ignore the opinion of the judiciary, who were going to impose the sentences.

Mr Mayhew, who was responsible for the power being included in the Criminal Law Act in 1977 when an opposition member, said that although it had never been implemented much had changed since then.

There was evidence that the judiciary had learnt from their mistakes over the suspended sentences and there was a much wider appreciation of their proper use. It was a reasonable gamble to ensure that the new power would be properly applied.

An internal police inquiry into the death, in custody, of a man aged 26 will be shown on BBC Television next Monday in the Police series, filmed with the Thames Valley force.

The man, who was drunk, was found in his cell, flat on his back, unconscious and vomiting. Despite attempts at resuscitation by policemen, he was dead on arrival at hospital.

The issue for the police was not any question of ill treatment of the prisoner but whether standing orders covering such situations had been carried out.

## Heathrow's volunteers speed the baggage

By Alan Hamilton

Passengers using terminal one at Heathrow have reported to British Airways that they have been able to collect their luggage more quickly since baggage handlers there went on strike nearly four weeks ago.

Airline officials also privately concede that passengers' complaints of pilferage have been almost non-existent, since the work was taken over by volunteers drawn from other departments of BA.

"I was out of the airport in half the time it would have taken me to collect my baggage from the bays," said a shuttle passenger who collected his suitcase direct from the aircraft hold.

Another of the scores who wrote to the airline said: "Grateful thanks for keeping the flights going and demonstrating how loyalty, common sense and an active conscience can show the foolish strikers up for what they are."

Far fewer complaints had come from customers about the strike than about the recent bad weather disruptions, the airline said. "Once they know what it is all about they are very understanding."

Mr Lindsay Todd, general manager at terminal one, confirmed yesterday that the airline's target of clearing 90 per cent of incoming passengers' baggage within 25 minutes was being achieved more often than by the regular staff.

Their enthusiasm was partly responsible, he said. But the main reason was that BA had given up handling mail and cargo on its domestic and European flights while the dispute lasted. Only about 10 per cent of short haul flights are being cancelled, and long haul services are not affected.

The 2,000 regular ramp staff, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, are objecting to new rosters which claim mean working from 17 to 30 extra days a year without extra pay.

About 350 volunteers a day, from aircraft captains to clerical staff, load, unload and clean aircraft, transport baggage and drive the tractors which position aircraft on the ground.

Mr Robert Macdonald, head of customer services, said the volunteers were well aware that the airline lost £140m last year. A "survival plan" aims to cut 3,000 jobs



Mr Michael Lock, a designer preparing a Surrealist style model (left) wearing a Schiaparelli dress for the new costume gallery at Brighton Museum. The gallery, which opens in April, will feature the creations of famous couturiers of the 1920-50 period, many presented by the original owners.

## Prison governor loses Lords contempt appeal

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A former governor of Albany Prison, Isle of Wight, was in contempt of court when he blocked a prisoner's High Court application, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

Stephen Patrick Raymond, the prisoner, had tried to apply to have Mr Colin Honey committed for contempt after he stopped a letter from the prisoner to his solicitor.

The Lords ruled that Mr Honey was wrong to intercept the High Court application, but upheld the Divisional Court ruling that he had not been in contempt when he blocked the original letter. A cross-appeal by Raymond was dismissed.

Lord Wilberforce said there was nothing in the Prison Act, 1952, that conferred power to make regulations which would deny, or interfere with, the prisoner's

## BIG GROWTH IN USE OF GATWICK

By Michael Bailey

Traffic through Gatwick grew by a quarter last year to make it the world's fourth biggest international airport after Heathrow, London, Kennedy, New York, and Frankfurt, it still had far fewer passengers than Heathrow, 10,700,000 compared with 26 million.

Gatwick has grown largely because many airlines were forced to go there when there was no room at Heathrow. Those airlines tended to be those which have produced more dynamic growth.

The trend is expected to continue despite the collapse of Laker, one of Gatwick's biggest users.

Charter traffic, on which Gatwick's fortunes were largely founded, remained virtually static last year, while scheduled services blossomed.

Law Report, page 23

## First shot fired in Welsh water war

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Mr Dafydd Wigley, president of Plaid Cymru, yesterday returned to the Welsh Water Authority his unpaid bill for £267 for a year's domestic water supply and signalled the beginning of a campaign of civil disobedience in the principality.

Water charges are an emotive issue in Wales and the party is hoping that thousands of consumers will refuse to pay their water rates until "more realistic payments" are made by English authorities for their supplies from Welsh reservoirs.

Plaid Cymru considers that the issue cuts across the language divide and political affiliations and is urging people from all parties to withhold payment of their bills. Welsh Water Authority consumers are charged 30p in the pound, compared with the 14p and 17p paid respectively by customers of the Severn-Trent and North West authorities, both of which extract millions of gallons from reservoirs in Wales.

Dissatisfaction in the principality was heightened by the recent decision of the WWA to raise its charges to the average household by 18.3 per cent.

The WWA has asked the Severn-Trent Authority to pay £4.5m, three times the present charge, for the water it takes from Wales, but that has been rejected. Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, are now involved in the dispute.

Mr Edwards has agreed that the WWA be reorganized to make it more efficient but he is determined to resist calls for a centralized water authority on the lines of other nationalized industries.

Earlier this week MPs attending the parliamentary committee on Welsh affairs were told by Dr Roger Thomas, the Labour member for Carmarthen, that the issue of water charges could cause instability throughout the principality.

## Boxing belts stolen

Cash and two championship belts worth £1,700 each have been stolen from the British Boxing Board of Control's London office. One of the belts was new. The other had been held by Charlie Magri, the former British flyweight champion.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Bailiffs on trail of bookworms

Bailiffs are being used to deal with people in Hampshire who fail to return library books. In a three month experiment worth £2,600 were recovered with £768 in fines and £115 for lost books.

Hampshire County Council has decided to make the bailiffs, who take 10 per cent of the debt recovered, a permanent feature of its library service.

Mr John Reynolds, who is in charge of administration for the country's 53 libraries, said that only a minority of missing books were caused by the forgetfulness. "Most of the people who keep library books do so deliberately."

If a book is not returned after two reminders we get in touch with the bailiff. I have known a person take a wheelbarrow load of overdue books to a mobile library."

### Stricken ship worries MP

Mr Gordon Wilson, the Scottish National Party MP for Dundee East, yesterday called for an urgent government statement on the potential danger caused by the cargo ship Craigantlet, which is aground off the Galloway coast with a cargo of dangerous chemicals on board.

Mr Wilson said: "Highly poisonous chemicals have been washed into the sea and I want to find out what the Government is doing to lessen the danger and prevent such an occurrence happening again."

The Cypriot container vessel went aground off Portpatrick on Friday. Some of the deck cargo, including containers of chemical waste, has since been washed into the sea and police have warned people to stay away.

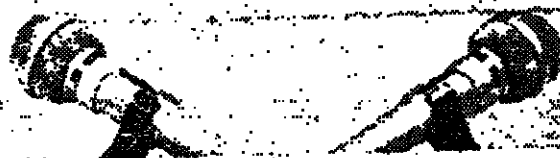
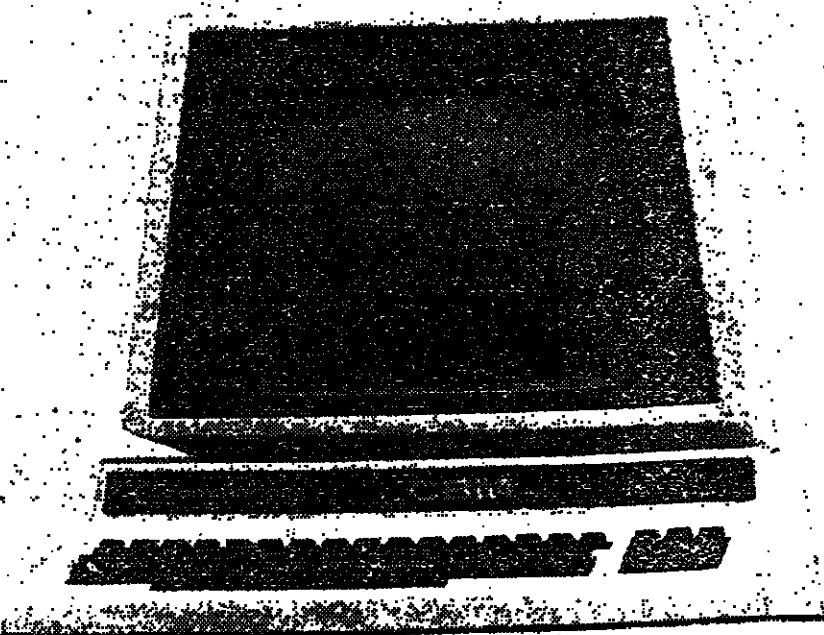
### Child murder charge remand

Martin Edward Beale, aged 49, was remanded in custody yesterday charged with murdering his daughter Rowan, aged two, at Hope Cove, Devon, on Tuesday.

Mr Beale, an unemployed craftsman, of no fixed address, is to appear again at Kingsbridge Magistrates' Court on Wednesday.

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It seems that even hardened money men who complain about cash flowing like treacle are very happy to invest in the PET, Commodore's microcomputer.

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Service and reliability are all you should expect from a company which has been in electronics for over 20 years. Also, since the dealers in our nationwide network only become Commodore Business Consultants after being carefully selected and trained, you can be sure you'll be looked after properly. Before and after sales.

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## Anger in Spain to killing by Civil Guards

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 4

Spain's Civil Guards are once again at the centre of a popular outcry in Andalusia after the fatal shooting of an 18-year-old youth and the serious wounding of his cousin at Trebujena 20 miles north of Jerez, the sherry town. They had been riding a motorcycle and failed to heed a Civil Guard's order to halt. Last night, after the burial of the youth, Ignacio Montoya, an unemployed labourer, all the region's leftwing forces headed by the Socialist Party of Andalusia, combined to issue a statement rejecting the official version of the shooting as "incorrect, and an insult to the victim". They demanded an investigation by Parliament.

The local Civil Guard authorities said a Civil Guard on duty outside the paramilitary organization's barracks identified the youths as two suspected thieves denounced earlier in the day by a local farmer's wife.

The Civil Guard, according to the official version, fired one warning shot into the air. When the motorcycle failed to stop he fired three more shots at the youths. Ignacio Montoya was killed instantly, and his cousin was found by doctors later to have been shot through the spine.

Local people maintained that the youths failed to stop because they did not want to get a traffic fine. They pointed out that one hour elapsed between the woman's denunciation being communicated to Civil Guards on duty, and the two youths riding past the barracks. The youth's motorcycle possessed a mechanical part which the farmer's wife had noted was missing from a thief's vehicle.

Last May Andalusia was

the scene of a tragic error by Civil Guards which ended with the discovery of three burnt corpses on an Almería roadside. They belonged to three young men with no criminal records who had been detained and interrogated by Civil Guards as suspected members of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization.

Senor Juan Roson, the Interior Minister, subsequently told Parliament that "irregularities" had occurred. The latest blunder by the Civil Guards, who are widely feared and hated in Andalusia caused all banks, shops, bars, schools and even public offices to close all day yesterday in Trebujena following a protest motion passed by all parties on the town council.

The Civil Governor of Seville replied by imposing a fine of 500,000 pesetas (about £2,700) on the town's leftwing mayor, as well as fines on local shopkeepers.

Madrid: A deposition given in court today linked Major-General Alfonso Amada, former deputy Army Chief of Staff, to the right-wing military plot to overthrow the Spanish governments despite earlier written testimony from the ex-adviser to King Juan Carlos that he was not part of the conspiracy (AP report).

The deposition was given in the ninth day of the court martial trying General Amada, 31 other military men and one civilian for military rebellion in the attempted coup a year ago. A deposition by Brigadier-General Manuel Prieto, of the Civil Guard said the leader of rebellious Civil Guards claimed he was acting on the orders of General Amada.

From Paul Ellman, Guatemala City, March 4  
Caught in the crossfire between left and right, the Roman Catholic Church in Central America is heading towards a big crisis, particularly over its role in the two strife-torn nations of El Salvador and Guatemala.

At the centre of the debate presently disturbing the church is the question of how far it should go in spreading the Christian doctrines of human dignity and brotherly love without becoming involved in revolutionary political movements whose members include Marxists.

Critics on the right, both political and ecclesiastical, argue that the church has already gone too far and is encouraging the spread of communism. Critics on the left accuse it of only surface commitment to social change. This commitment stemmed originally from a desire to halt the spread of Marxist ideology. After Vatican II from 1962 to 1965, the Latin American church as a whole agreed to work to improve the lot of its adherents, particularly the impoverished inhabitants of rural areas. The church found itself in direct competition with those trying to foster the ideals of the Cuban revolution, seen as a model for Latin American nations.

As a consequence priests in El Salvador, for example, went to live in rural areas, introducing villagers for the first time to the idea that they could liberate themselves from a brutish existence dominated by the harsh rule of the National Guard.

Not surprisingly, many of the guerrillas fighting in El Salvador still profess to be Christian Democrats opposed to the party's decision under President José Napoleón Duarte to share power with the military.

In Guatemala priests brought a similar message to the Indians who, while they

make up 60 per cent of the population, live on the margins of the country's life.

The mounting political violence in these two countries over the past two years has not spared the church, which has seen nine of its workers murdered in El Salvador and 12 in Guatemala, which has also banned foreign missionaries from entering the country.

The most spectacular attack on the church was the assassination in 1980 at the altar of San Salvador Cathedral of Archbishop Oscar

Arnulfo Romero y Galdamez, who was an outspoken critic of the behaviour of the Salvadorean military.

Under strong pressure, not only from the right but also from the Christian Democratic Party, his successor, Acting Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, has seen more circumspect, preferring to address himself in general terms to the need to "detoxify" El Salvador of violence.

Church circles, however, report that even this may not be enough to assuage the right and there is growing

pressure, inside and outside the church, for Mgr Rivera y Damas not to be confirmed in his post but for the archdiocese to be given to a non-Salvadorean.

The right has been encouraged by last week's public admonishment by Pope John Paul II of the Jesuits for their radical activities, which have often strayed from the conservative positions adopted by the Pope.

The Jesuits, who total about 300 in Central America, have long been among the foremost proponents of the

so-called "theology of liberation" which, right-wingers claim, differs little from Marxist doctrine.

"Before they used to see a Christian Democrat behind every Jesuit. Now they see at best a Social Democrat or, at worst, a Marxist," commented a member of the order, which has been threatened with outright expulsion from both El Salvador and Guatemala. "It's only because we are for a social situation which provides reforms and justice."

While the church's efforts

to improve the social conditions of its followers come under fire from the right, the Marxist left in Nicaragua has broken publicly with the hierarchy there.

Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo of Nicaragua last June warned that "after two years of hope, our revolution is heading towards Marxism on the Cuban model".

The Archbishop was a persistent critic of the late Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza, who was overthrown in 1979. Later he has been attacking the Sandinistas, who overthrew the dictatorship, for violating the human rights of the Miskito Indian population.

The revolutionary Government in Managua has resettled forcibly in the centre of the country more than 8,000 Miskitos, whose previous home was on the Pacific coast near the frontier with Honduras, alleging that they were collaborating with anti-Sandinista guerrillas.

The Sandinistas have asked the Vatican to send a mission of inquiry to look into the activities of the church in Nicaragua.

The fear that church unity could be shattered because of events in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua brought a dire warning from Archbishop Román Arrieta Villalobos of Costa Rica, who is also chairman of the Episcopal Council of Central America and Panama.

Warning that the church could end up unable to preach its message of reconciliation, and clearly hoping that the right and left will not force a schism, the Archbishop said: "I cannot accept the idea of support for violent change, since Christians have other ways. There, nevertheless, have to be changes in social structures, because injustice is the cause of the problem, but armed struggle is not the way".

## Crisis in Central America Catholic church caught in the crossfire



War toll: Salvadorean guerrillas collecting taxes from traffic on the Pan American highway

## Reagan claims US economy is turning

From Michael Hamlyn, Los Angeles, March 4

President Reagan went to his home state of California yesterday and decided to accentuate the positive. He declared that his Administration's economic policies were already beginning to work.

Addressing an audience of conservative California local government officials he launched his most powerful defence so far of his new federalism proposal.

Looking on the bright side, he told the audience, which included his daughter Maureen, a candidate in the Senate elections later this year, of the indicators pointing towards his success.

"In fact, it has fallen faster than anyone predicted, 8.9 per cent average for 1981 and only about 4.5 per cent for the past three months."

"Savings are up and the main incentives to save are just coming on line. What does that mean to the economy? Well, a 1 per cent increase in personal savings of \$20,000m (£11,000m) in the investment pool of available capital."

"The prime interest rate, while still too high, has declined by 20 per cent. There may be some minor fluctuations, but the interest rate trend line is downward."

He declared that the economy was now poised for recovery and added: "It does prove that the medicine is beginning to work."

The President set about rallying the defence of his budget proposals, which are being attacked on all sides, even by his friends.

He admitted concern over the nearly \$100,000m budget deficit he is proposing. "It's certainly taking its toll on the nerves of those in Capitol Hill", he said. But he defended that too, pointing out that past deficits represented a far larger proportion of gross national product than his proposals.

"In the years we were coming out of the 1974 recession, deficits averaged 3.5 per cent of Gross National Product. Our projected deficit — big as it is — will only be 2.7 per cent of GNP."

Then he broadened the budget deficit argument into a wide ranging defence of his

new federalism proposals, linking the increased federal spending to the "expanding federal monolith".

He defended the concept of returning governmental decision to local authorities with appropriate quotations from Thomas Jefferson, Chief Justice John Marshall, Calvin Coolidge and Will Rogers.

The new federalism so far has failed to excite much interest among the American public. The main fear of the proposal has been that it would be a cover for cutting back spending programmes, but Mr Reagan and his supporters have been at pains to show that there will be no losers. "While there are no losers," Mr Reagan said today, "the people will be the winners."

The President referred to a column written by David Broder, a normally implacable enemy of Reaganism, writing in *The Washington Post* the most hostile of the establishment newspapers.

He said: "A major news columnist recently pointed out some politicians and pundits don't take the issue of federalism seriously. Many of them, he suggested, simply don't realize how fed up grassroots Americans are with the centralization of power and resources in Washington. The columnist concluded that it would be a political mistake to brush aside federalism." The President added: "Well, bless his little typewriter!"

Mr Reagan referred to the fears of some people raised in an era when states' rights was a cover phrase for racism. "For the record," he said, "the new federalism is not meant to be and will not be permitted to be a step backward in the nation's commitment to civil rights."

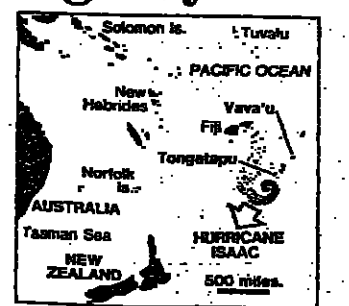
In praising the development of voluntary service throughout local authority work the President announced the appointment of a private sector survey chief who will root out inefficiency and the waste of taxpayers' dollars in the federal Government. The new chairman of the survey is Mr Peter Grace, chairman and chief executive of the chemical company W. R. Grace.

## Cyclone-stricken islands face food emergency

Sydney, March 4. — Five Australian Air Force transport aircraft left tonight with relief supplies for the Pacific island kingdom of Tonga, where at least two people have died in a cyclone, officials said.

Most telephone lines to the islands have been cut by Cyclone Isaac, although officials confirmed that two children had been killed and seven were missing and feared drowned.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission, which managed to make telephone contact with the islands today, said 50 people had been treated for injuries. The news editor of Tonga radio said in an interview that there was a desperate need for food and supplies.



All power had been cut on the main island of Nukunono and in the capital, Nukunono, houses had been washed away by flood waters. Most buildings in the town had been damaged by the cyclone, which first hit the Tongan islands on Tuesday night, but is now moving away.

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## Palestine dispute jars Mitterrand's Israel visit

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 4

Differences about the Palestinian problem have ended the initial harmony of the first visit to Israel by a French head of state.

During a special session of the Knesset Parliament today, M. François Mitterrand, the French President, and Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, dwelt at length on their diametrically opposed views about a possible solution.

M. Mitterrand reiterated his strongly held opinion that it was wrong for outsiders to intervene in the Middle East problem. He said the task of finding an answer should be left to the peoples of the region. "France will not act as an arbitrator or as a mediator."

M. Mitterrand addressed the chamber from the podium. He said in November 1977, Mr. Begin replied from a wheelchair positioned by his usual seat, but the hip injury he is suffering from did nothing to diminish the fierceness of his rhetoric.

He denied that the setting up of a Palestinian state in the West Bank would provide

symmetric justice. "Can the people of France really allow themselves, after all that has happened during the Second World War, to render support to the mountains of Judea and Samaria to an enemy bent on our destruction, as itself proclaims in its infamous charter."

Repeating what had been said during private meetings with the French, Mr. Begin described the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) charter as the "Arab edition of Mein Kampf".

He quoted from an exchange which he said took place in London two weeks ago between "Mr. el-Hassan, Arafat's [the PLO leader] aide" and a correspondent of the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*.

Mr. el-Hassan was quoted as saying: "Zionism is the Satan. We don't negotiate with it."

On Israel, he allegedly said: "If it is based on the Zionist doctrine, then it has no right of existence, and we have no intention of negotiating with it."

Mr. Begin, after emphasizing the importance of the new rapport with France that has been established by M. Mitterrand's election and now his visit, described French support for a Palestinian state as the main obstacle in the path to the renewal of friendship between the two countries.

M. Mitterrand said in his 35-minute address that he did not take a strong stand on who did and who did not represent the Palestinians. But he asked how the PLO could expect to sit at the negotiating table while it denied Israel's right to exist.

The French leader, who had avoided reference to the Palestinian question during the first day of his visit, said the essential conditions for negotiations between Israelis and Arabs were "preliminary and mutual recognition, and mutual renunciation of direct and indirect war."

Later M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, who had come in for criticism during Mr. Begin's address, held private talks with a number of West Bank leaders, including two of the most radical mayors, Mr. Bassam Shaka, of Nablus, and Mr. Karim Khalef, of Ramallah.

The Arab leaders who also included Mr. Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem, had previously said that Mr. Arafat should meet M. Mitterrand.



Welcome to India: Mrs Indira Gandhi greeting President Karamanlis of Greece in Delhi at the start of his four-day state visit.

## Union fears grow in Greece

From Mario Modiano, Athens, March 4

International labour organizations have expressed grave concern over the abrupt changes of leadership in the Greek trade union movement after the Socialist Government came to power.

A combined delegation from the European Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which just spent 24 hours in Athens, raised the matter with Mr. Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister.

The Higher Arbitration Court fixed minimum wages

at 825 drachmas (£7.50) yesterday and the lowest monthly salary in the private sector at 18,580 drachmas (£169). This tallies exactly with the increases granted by the Government in the public sector. It was known that the Socialist Cabinet was particularly anxious that these levels should not be exceeded as they could upset economic planning.

Opposition critics have accused the Papandreu Government of engineering the takeover of the confederation to neutralize pressures from its left and its right.

The Higher Arbitration Court fixed minimum wages

## Convention fails to halt mass murder

By Caroline Moorehead

The Genocide Convention, drafted in the aftermath of the Second World War by signatories universally horrified at the devastation caused by the Nazis, has significantly failed to eradicate what they termed an "odious scourge" against mankind, according to a new report published by the Minority Rights Group, International Action Against Genocide. Not merely has it failed to prevent numerous massacres after decolonization, and the mass murder of political groups, but the need for international protection against genocide is more urgent than ever.

Professor Leo Kuper, author of the report, begins by enumerating different variations of the crime. There is, he says, "domestic genocide", by which he means that of indigenous people, victims of predatory economic development (the Ache Indians of Paraguay); of tribal minorities after decolonization (the Hutu of Burundi); of racial groups during struggles for autonomy (Bangladesh); or against scapegoat groups (the Armenians by the Turks).

But there are also, he argues, the political mass murders, deportations under Stalin, the slaughter in Uganda — wrongly excluded from the convention. These are, he says, "routine instruments of despotic power".

That the United Nations convention has failed is not

really in question. Professor Kuper attributes this however not merely to the ambiguities of definition — to ensure ratification the massive slaughter of political groups and cultural genocide were both omitted from the final convention — but also to the emphasis on punishment (so far totally ineffective) rather than prevention.

Given the United Nations' inability to act, Professor Kuper advocates some sort of early warning screening system to prevent genocidal conflicts occurring, the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights, the eventual setting up of an international penal court, and the continuing efforts of non-governmental human rights organizations everywhere, working to keep such atrocities ever before the public eye.

International Action Against Genocide is the MRG's fifty-third report and appears as the organization celebrates its tenth anniversary. Born in the wake of Biafra, MRG set out to do for minorities what Amnesty International does for individuals: bring to the attention of the world the light of persecuted groups. Like Amnesty, it has tried to report on all geographic and political systems, in as impartial a way as possible.

International Action Against Genocide, by Professor Leo Kuper (£1.20 plus 30p postage) and the other reports can be bought from MRG, 36 Craven Street, London WC2.

## Gaddafi threatens to go to war with US

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, March 4

Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, appears to be on the verbal warpath once again. Only a day after he claimed that the United States had conspired with Saudi Arabia to starve Libya of its oil market, he announced today that if America violated Libya's territorial waters his country would go to war with the United States.

"If America enters the Bay of Sidra [Sirt], he told a rally in the Libyan capital, 'war in the full sense of the word will begin between us and them, war with planes, navies, missiles and everything'."

In August last year, two American fighters shot down two Libyan Air Force jets over the Gulf of Sirt during United States naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean. The incident was followed by a series of antagonistic speeches by Colonel Gaddafi against the American Government, an onslaught which President Reagan's Administration obligingly returned in kind.

The Libyan leader long realized that to be a public enemy of the United States was to gain the favour of Third World countries and left-wing Arab nations. The Americans have never failed to support this image by denouncing the colonel as a terrorist leader.

Angered by what he regarded as an American boycott of Libyan oil sales in the United States, Colonel Gaddafi said that he would

"be ready to sit down face to face and negotiate with America to discuss what we can do to establish relations between two countries in this world."

But this boycott... is unreasonable in international relations because America is a big power and its relations with smaller countries should be unbiased. America should have self-respect and not attack a small country like Libya which has only two to three million inhabitants."

American tend to regard Colonel Gaddafi's latest fulminations as a product of the mouse that roared, but this is only half the truth. For there has been an important shift in the loyalty of Libya's publicly proclaimed Arab enemies.

In the past, the Egyptian leadership has always formed the object of Colonel Gaddafi's hatred with Saudi Arabia's monarchy running a close second. Now Saudi Arabia is being portrayed as an American lackey while mention of the Egyptian Government has disappeared. It seems that Colonel Gaddafi is looking forward to some kind of rapprochement with the Egyptians under President Mubarak, at the expense of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis, according to the Libyan leader, were trying to "steal" the world oil market in crude oil at the cheapest price because they wanted to "starve" Libya. "Saudi Arabia has declared a war of famine, an economic war against us," he said.

## 37 Sinai families evicted

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, March 4

Security forces stepped up the eviction of Israeli squatters from Sinai settlements before the scheduled return of the territory to Egypt on April 26. Buses took 37 families from three settlements today.

The expected rush of Stop the Withdrawal activists to resist the evictions did not materialize. A few approached, but were turned away. The evicted put up token resistance.

At Talmi Yosef, where 22 families were removed, petrol-soaked rags were set ablaze at one entrance to the village and a car parked across a road at another. In the afternoon the forces evicted more people from near Abraham and from Maoz Hayan.

Bona fide residents of the villages are being allowed to stay until March 31. Most accepted compensation and are committed to move. The squatters have taken over farms and houses of families who have been moved to Israel.

An activist said anti-withdrawal movement's moderation was tactical: it was decided to avoid overt confrontations with the Army, but to smuggle supporters past road blocks and into the region at night.

Rabbi Meir Kahane, the Jewish Defence League leader, arrived today at Yamit, the main Sinai settlement, and said he was setting up a new headquarters and wanted volunteers to "meet force with force".

Witnesses said soldiers arrived at the settlements today without arms. The squatters delayed evictions but troops were patient. Women soldiers helped the families to pack and men helped to load lorries. The squatters were taken to Beersheba.

At Talmi Yosef the eviction was held up as some families produced papers attesting that they were bona fide residents. One settler was detained suspicion of forging identity papers.

## Radiation kills atom plant man

Toronto, March 4. — An Ontario nuclear worker has died because of radiation in his work, a spokesman for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd said today. Another worker at the same plant had a disability award for cancer believed to have been caused or aggravated by radiation.

Both have been long serving employees at the Atomic Energy of Canada nuclear reactor research centre at Chalk River, Ontario, near Ottawa.

The company's admission of radiation-related cancers among its former workers could have important implications for the industry, for standards of radiation exposure and for hundreds of nuclear workers in Canada and abroad.

The two men developed typical radiation-related cancers although they never received more than the current maximum permissible dose of radiation during their years at Chalk River. Both received Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board awards in 1981 based on the company's acknowledgement to the board that their exposure to radiation was a possible or contributing cause of their cancers.

One man retired in 1981 after 28 years as a radiation worker. He was diagnosed as having cancer of the skin and neck. The other retired earlier after 31 years' service and was confirmed as suffering from leukaemia.

Chalk River's 2,200 workers were briefed earlier in the week about the cases, the spokesman said. He added: "We have always believed there was an increased risk of cancer due to radiation exposure."

### CORRECTIONS

A report from Warsaw published on March 3 stated that the Palestinian Abu Daoud was shot dead last year. He survived the attack.

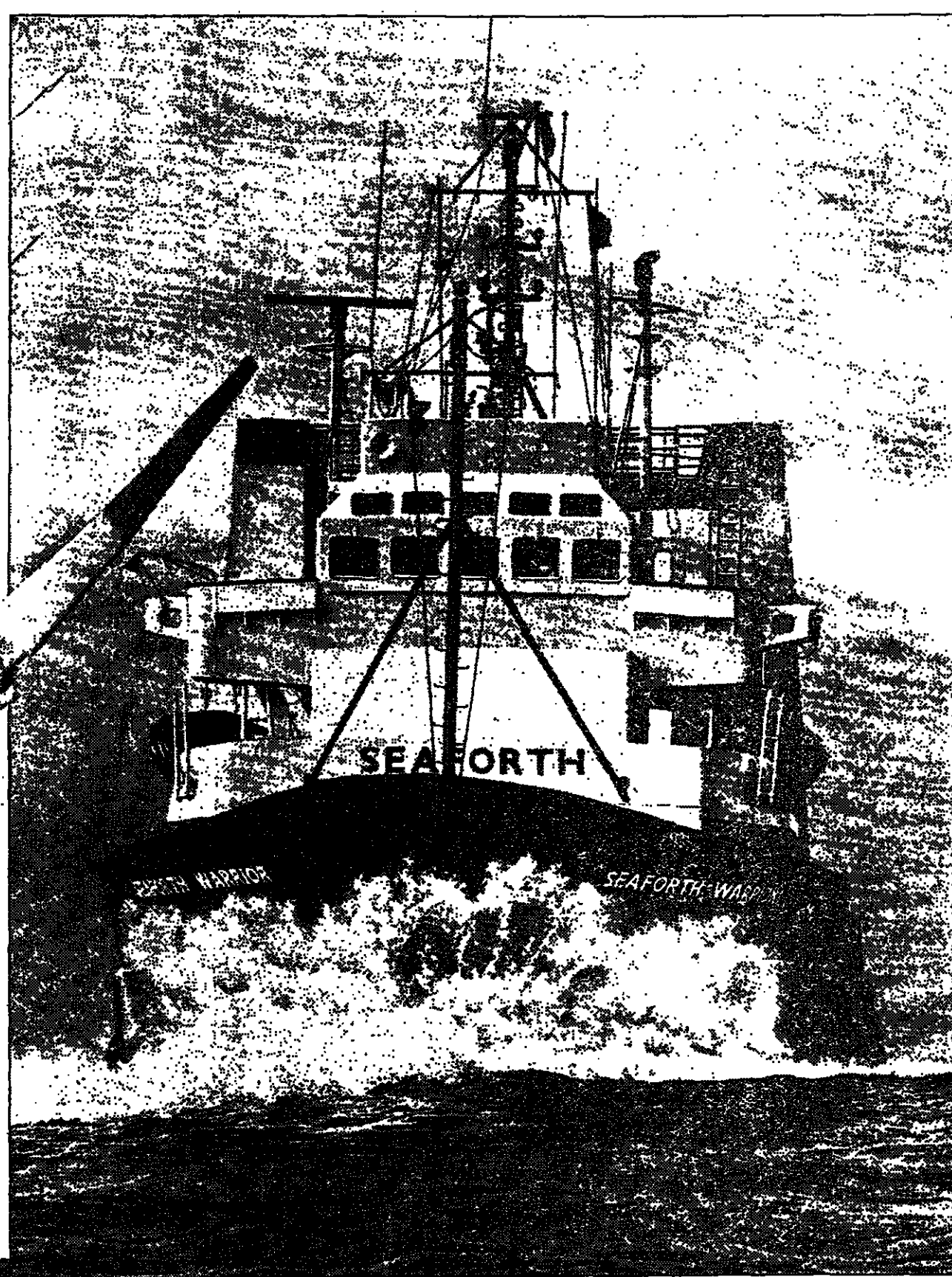
A Washington report yesterday should have stated that \$218.3m (£110m) allocated for space defence represented less than 0.01 per cent of the proposed United States defence budget.

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# Why a construction company which went to sea is raising sails on land.

Work will soon begin on the construction of a giant 'windmill' to generate power into the grid system on Orkney. With a height of 75 metres it has two rotating blades whose overall diameter is 60 metres. This one machine will eventually supply the islanders with electricity equivalent to the requirements of over one thousand homes.

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played a significant role in the development, civil engineering and construction of six nuclear power stations.

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## New effort to find Namibia formula

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 4

The five-nation Western contact group is to make a new attempt within the next few days to resolve a problem which is holding up final agreement on the first phase of their revised settlement plan for Namibia (South-West Africa).

The problem centres on the "one-man-two-votes" proposal for constituent assembly elections which will precede the granting of independence to the disputed territory.

Under this dual election system half the seats in the constituent assembly would be filled by proportional representation and the other half by single-member constituencies. The aim is to make it more difficult for the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) to obtain the two-thirds majority in the assembly needed for constitutional changes and thereby to provide assurances to South Africa and the United Kingdom that the territory's 100,000 whites that minority rights will be protected.

The proposal has been accepted by South Africa but rejected by Swapo and the black "front line" states. The five members of the contact group — Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada — are now considering ways to get around this impasse.

One option would be for the contact group to go back to the black states and try to convince them that the election plan is not as complicated as it appears and

will not produce a result that is undemocratic.

Another option would be for the five Western nations to ask South Africa to accept a revised election procedure. This would not go down well with Pretoria which in the past has accused the Western nations of double-dealing and of going back on points which had already been agreed.

Only when agreement had been reached on this issue can talks begin in earnest on the second phase of the Western plan involving the actual setting up of elections. This phase is expected to be the most difficult than the first phase.

Meanwhile, Mr David Rockefeller, the retired chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, has called for a resumption of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Marxist regime in Angola. He said during a 10-nation African tour he did not think African Marxism threatened American interests.

The United States has linked the establishment of normal relations with the withdrawal of between 15,000 and 20,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

□ Pretoria: South Africa denied an official Angolan report that Swapo guerrillas had destroyed a South African base at Okahango in Namibia in a battle last Saturday (AFP reports). A Defence Ministry spokesman said there was no such camp.

## Indonesia 'banished' 4,000 to island

Jakarta, March 4.—Indonesia

transported 4,000 people from East Timor to a tiny island after a military operation against East Timor Guerrillas of the Fretilin independence movement, a Red Cross official said today. Mr David Delapraz, an International Red Cross regional delegate, added that he and a team from the organization last month interviewed some of the 806 families, moved in 1981 and now officially described as temporarily displaced.

He refused to comment on their condition. They were seen by his team on Atauro island, in the South Banda sea 20 miles from Dili, capital of East Timor, the former Portuguese colony.

The annexation, not recognised by the United Nations, was followed by fighting between Indonesian troops and Fretilin guerrillas which has continued intermittently. Mr Delapraz said the Red Cross would give the Indonesian Government tomorrow a confidential report.

Mr Delapraz said the Red Cross, concerned by possible victims among the civil population, first asked to visit Atauro in October amid reports that many people had been displaced in an East Timor military sweep.

Indonesian officials said most of the East Timor nationals moved there had been sent for security reasons and some for their own protection. — Reuters.



Child's play: A youthful member of Chad's regular Army ready for battle with insurgents.

## Peruvian province declares state of emergency

Lima, March 4. — The Peruvian province of Ayacucho has declared a state of emergency for the second time in six months after 14 people were killed in an attack on a prison by left-wing guerrillas in which more than 200 inmates were freed.

Constitutional guarantees were suspended and large numbers of police with extra powers of search and arrest were rushed to the provincial capital 190 miles south east of Lima.

Officials said 12 guerrillas and two prison guards were killed when attackers armed with machine guns and dynamite stormed the prison on Tuesday.

The assault by suspected members of a Maoist group called Sendero Luminoso (Lighted Path), was the most serious incident of guerrilla violence since the restoration of democracy 19 months ago.

General José Gagliardi, the Interior Minister, said: "We are faced with a force which

is much better prepared than we thought".

Ayacucho, a remote, Andean mountain province, has been the focus of extremist violence since President Fernando Belaunde Terry assumed office in July, 1980 after 12 years of military rule.

A 60-day state of emergency was imposed in the province last October after a rash of bomb attacks. Police rounded up hundreds of suspects and claimed to have

eradicated most of the guerrilla cells.

The province's calm was shattered on Sunday when a first attempt was made to free the guerrilla suspects from Ayacucho's jail. Four prisoners were killed and an escape was foiled.

Two nights later about 150 guerrillas took part in the second assault. Using dynamite to blast open the prison gates, they burst inside chanting "Long live the armed struggle" and "Long live communism". — Reuters.

## Hongkong Bahais petition for asylum

From Our Correspondent Hongkong, March 4

Several Iranians of the Baha'i faith living in Hongkong are seeking sanctuary in other countries after being ordered by the Tehran Government to return home to face charges over unspecified crimes.

The group, believed to number less than a dozen among the estimated 1,500 Bahais in Hongkong, are seeking status in Hongkong and elsewhere, fearing they will be the next victims of a "religious purge" with political significance if they return to Iran, Mr Steve Townsend, their Hongkong spokesman, said.

At least 100 Bahais — whose religious sect believes in the oneness of God, world government, sexual equality and the importance of education — have been executed in Iran under the Islamic regime.

The Hongkong Bahais, who strongly deny any anti-revolution actions, fear execution by firing squad as "Zionist agents" if they return to Iran. "Iranian Bahais have always been labelled as supporters of the Zionist group and anti-revolutionaries", Mr Townsend said.

The Iranian consulate in Hongkong, which confirms the recalls, has told the group that their passports will not be renewed when they expire next month.

## Yugoslavia warns Belgium

From Dena Trevisan, Belgrade, March 4

The Yugoslav Government has reacted strongly to the attack by gunmen in Brussels, in which two Yugoslavs were killed and several wounded, by accusing the Belgian authorities of doing nothing to hinder terrorist attacks.

In a sharply worded protest that reflects serious apprehension at continuing anti-Yugoslav activities, especially since last year's ethnic riots in the Kosovo region, the Yugoslav Government gave a warning that relations between Belgrade and Brussels were being seriously affected.

Yesterday the gunmen walked into the Yugoslav cultural club in Brussels, pulled out a sub-machine gun, killed two men and injured at least three others, and escaped in a waiting car.

Yugoslavia now claims that despite its warning to Belgium of continuing acts of terrorism against Yugoslav diplomats and migrant workers, the Belgian authorities have failed to take matters more firmly in hand. Belgrade also accused the Belgians of leniency, which is regarded here as encouraging incidents like yesterday's.

Behind this apprehension lies the fact that the Yugoslavs have been expecting some serious demonstration by ethnic Albanians to mark the anniversary of the Kosovo riots which began last March at the university there.

Since then there has been a series of incidents in Belgium against Yugoslav diplomats and institutions: a bomb exploded in the Yugoslav Airlines office, there was arson in the Yugoslav tourist bureau, and several clubs of Yugoslav migrant workers were attacked, culminating in the assassination of a member of the Yugoslav embassy.

## Church tells of torture in Bolivia

From John Enders, La Paz, March 4

The Roman Catholic Church in Bolivia says it has proof that prisoners in the paramilitary security jail of La Paz are regularly subjected to brutal torture despite President Celso Torrello Villa's pledge that his government fully respects human rights.

The allegations are contained in a written report to the bishops' meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra from the archdiocese's ecumenical aid office, established to aid political prisoners and their families.

It says the 80 prisoners in the La Paz jail have been tortured in recent days: "The statistical balance of repression shows that, far from having entered a period of social peace, the population overall lives subjected to the constant threat of arrest and torture."

Several Argentine advisers and at least one Italian citizen were said to be members of the interrogation teams working with the security apparatus here since the military seized power in July, 1980, in a coup led then by former-president Luis Garcia Meza.

General Torrello came to power on September 4 but many observers, including foreign diplomats and military men in the Government, say he is not fully in control of the security agents working with the Interior Ministry.

Those sources say that Señor Freddy Quiroga, who heads the feared paramilitary apparatus once called the SES (Servicio Especial de Seguridad) but now renamed DIE (Direccion de Inteligencia del Estado) is for all practical purposes a man out of control.

He has been head of one paramilitary force or another for years.

## Fugitive for 38 years faces firing squad

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, March 4

For 38 years Maksim Poltavets escaped retribution for his part in the wartime execution of villagers by German occupation forces in the Ukraine. When the Red Army swept in to liberate his village, he shut himself away in his house, and he remained there in virtual darkness until a few weeks ago.

Now an old man of 71, he was discovered by neighbours and hauled before a village meeting, where several older people accused him of serving as a policeman with the Germans and killing the villagers. Now he is a prisoner and a group of Red Army soldiers. They voted to put him on trial. If found guilty, he will probably be shot.

A generation after the end of the war, fugitives are still being discovered in hiding. Last year the authorities found a 61-year-old man, almost blind, unshaven and dressed in rags, who had been hidden in a bunker by his family when Nazi troops withdrew from the Lvov region in 1944. He had worked for the occupation forces as a bricklayer and was branded as a collaborator by the local population.

Eventually his father and other close relatives died, and when police led him into daylight he had lost all sense of time. Unusually, it was decided not to punish him for the "misdeemeanours of his youth" and work was found for the old and broken man. But others do not escape

retribution. The Soviet Union is merciless in the pursuit of war criminals, and there is no statute of limitations to protect the guilty. Every year about a dozen people are shot for crimes committed 40 years ago.

Many war criminals are brought to light by mistake in investigation by the KGB security police and the study of captured wartime documents. In the turmoil of the German retreat from Russia, many of the thousands of collaborators managed to slip away and change their documents and identities.

The Russians frequently accuse the West of harbouring war criminals and being deliberately slack in prosecuting them. But the Soviet authorities are quick to cooperate in providing evidence for trials in the West.

In 1980 American government lawyers, investigating naturalized Americans suspected of having served as camp guards and policemen with the Nazis, were given help and documents here which they said could lead to the deportation of up to 350 people.

The Presidential Commission on the Jewish Holocaust was offered wide-ranging help in the Soviet Union. Three years ago the American Attorney-General told the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith that he had not had so much support in seeking war criminals from any other country.



## To the 92 MPs of Greater London.

The Fares Fair Policy, introduced for Londoners on October 4th 1981, was meant to make the public transport systems more accessible to everyone. It increased efficiency through greater use of the available services. It allowed simpler, lower fares.

On March 21st 1982, fares will go up, signalling the end of what was a bold and imaginative piece of planning.

If nothing is done before March 21st, there will be some dramatic changes to the costs and quality of working and travelling in London. Fares will double. Uneconomic tube stations may close. Some bus services may have to go altogether. All services will be reduced.

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And, following the rulings of the Court of Appeal and the Law Lords, the subsidy figure for London's public transport will fall, after March 21st, to as little as 12%.

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Is this fair on Londoners?

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## THE ARTS

## Television

## Recycling exercise

Nick Mead runs an architectural relief service. He moves in with his men when some period piece is awaiting the indiscriminate attention of the demolition men and removes the memories of craftsmanship long gone.

He told *Forty Minutes*, who covered his activities in *Saved in the Nick of Time* on BBC2 last night, that he did it for money but also because preservation is a worthwhile way of earning a living, and he was entirely convincing. He has learnt that "the bigger the lot, the fewer the customers", but despite this allows romanticism to override economics and even rescues things he knows "have great white elephant potential". One such was a marble fountain with beautiful embellishments that could impede progress around his Chelsea warehouse for some time.

He would prefer that Britain retained her relics but, as there is not that much money about and as business in any period is business, he has to recycle much of his salvage in America where the appetite for things of yore, anybody's yore, is voracious.

So an old sweeping staircase is packaged for Mrs Douglas's Heaven on Earth establishment in Houston, an interesting-sounding place that caters for the matched and despatched, being both a marriage parlour and a funeral parlour.

We did not see Mrs Douglas — too busy, I should think — but we did see Mrs Bobby Wolfe whose husband, Fletcher, is founder and director of the Atlanta Boy Choir. The boys were singing "Nymphs and Shepherds" out in the garden, which was full of roses and a porch, rescued by Mr Mead from a Victorian house in Reckonham. "Fletcher and I have been recycling since before we were married," confided Mrs Wolfe, and it startled for a moment before the camera moved from her to the trophies.

However, some things do stay at home. We saw a tenor being hoisted high at Canterbury Cathedral, recycled from a peal of bells from a disused church at Marylebone, and a clock from the same church now in working order. The clock cost £198 10s to make in the middle of the nineteenth century, now it would cost £12,500. It was a bargain at £1,500. Then there was the belle époque conservatory which somehow found its way from France to Knightsbridge.

Mr Mead earns his living quite often, as when removing the clock, at some risk. Apart from the feeling that he is doing a good job, it has other compensations. "The sound of breaking glass," he said, "can be very satisfying at times". This contribution to the *Forty Minutes* series, which is also to have an extended life, was well produced by Robyn Wallis.

Dennis Hackett

## Cinema

## Emotional touch of the old master

## On Golden Pond (A)

Odeon, Haymarket

## Mad Max II (X)

Warner West End; Classic, Haymarket; Studio, Oxford Circus

## Imposters

## ICA

## Dear Boys

## Roxie Cinema Club

On *Golden Pond* is a return to a kind of film — the well-made screenplay that uses all its artifice to manipulate the audience's laughter and tears — that long ago went out of style. It also reviews the almost forgotten pleasure of yielding up our emotions to be worked over as the body might be submitted to the hands of a skilful masseur. Audiences apparently have only been waiting for the chance. In the United States, *On Golden Pond* has earned \$40m in four weeks, and stars — impossible — the top of *Variety's* chart of top-grossing pictures.

Directed by Mark Rydell, it is adapted from Ernest Thompson from his own Broadway play, one of a whole run of productions designed to show the superiority of older stars. Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn play Norman and Ethel Thayer, an old couple eking out their last years in a summer cottage by an idyllic forest lake, which harbours a whole lifetime of memories for them. It is his eightieth birthday. "They have so fast," his body and mind are failing, he fiercely resents the humiliations of age and employs all his invective and wit to rail against them. His wife, ten years younger, is patient, protective and defiant in her energy and enthusiasm for life.

Their daughter, Chelsea (Jane Fonda), arrives for the birthday party, bringing her fiancé and a whole new set of problems. But the quality of this film, like a lot of older melodramas, is that the manipulation and artifice only work because the premises on which they are managed are in essence truthful. The characters are unquestionably truthful, and they are used to demonstrate truths as well as to tell a story. There is a lot of real pain in Norman's fear and hatred of age ("I don't want crowds of people watching me turn older", he grouches at the prospect of a birthday party), even when it is expressed in a way and tone that sometimes recall W. C. Fields. There is a sense of real love in their crotchety marital bicker. They tell us, too, that the assumed obligation to like one's relatives can often mean hell; that a quiet old man may well have been a younger s.o.b. and now deserves to pay the price for it.

In an old-fashioned and positive sense, too, the film is very moral. It characterises its characters as people who are quite consciously trying to persuade us that the old are human too, that they may still have things to teach, and love life in them. It tells us (as Ethel Sayer teaches the child) "Sometimes you have to look hard at a person and realize he's doing the best he can". They are old moral lessons, but not bad things to hear again when they are well said.

Earlier films by Mark Rydell — *The*



A pond that leapfrogs the generations: Doug McKean with Henry Fonda

eccentric surfaces. The small boy, Doug McKean, makes a wholly equal third to the team. He is round-faced, blond, suspicious and wholly believable in the slow, unwilling process of making contact with another and very alien human being.

The reason this kind of piece, in which the manipulation of situation (an accident that puts Norman's life at peril; another near-death scene to wring tears; the tidy resolution of life-long misunderstandings) and the process of making contact with another and very alien human being.

Mad Max II offers the most extreme contrast. The original *Mad Max* was made for peanuts, but the startling skill of its director, George Miller, in directing violent action made it the biggest grossing film Australia had so far exported. The sequel has the benefit of a great deal more money, has a great deal more violent action, handled with the same verve and culminating in a prolonged automobile chase, and carries Australian movies to a new stage of infantism.

The action of the new film takes place a year or so further into the future predicted by its predecessor. Global conflict escalating from the Middle East has wiped out urban civilization. Wild — marauding gangs — ageing punks and cycle boys — roam the outback, and make sorties against a little outpost huddled around a solitary oil drill, the last source of wealth. Into this country rides *Mad Max*, as an unwilling Moses who eventually leads the people to the promised land — the source of the Queensland Gold Coast.

It amalgamates every sort of movie myth, magic and reference. The plot is classic Western, and some of the characters are vaguely garbed as braves and squaws. There are touches of martial arts and sword-and-sorcery (the villains wear visors and use crossbows); there is a Shakespearean fool who rides a helicopter; and plays Sancho to Max's Don; and a feral cave-child.

*Reivers, Cinderella Liberty* — showed the same direct, persuasive concern with the problems and rewards of simply trying to understand other people. He is generous with charm and pleasure: the performers are given a background of elegant mood and scenery (the lakeland is photographed by Billy Williams in predominant twilight gold). These are the sort of frank and innocent pleasures about which it would be foolish to be superior or defensively sophisticated.

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Above all there are the cars — roaring, chasing, colliding, crashing, conflagrating. It is in its way a landmark of the cinema of action without sense.

Mark Rappaport is much admired in certain circles of independent cinema: a couple of years ago his *Scenic Route* won the BFI award for the most original film shown at the National Film Theatre during the previous twelve months. His films exemplify effect and allusion without structure to give coherence or compulsion to the whole.

Imposters, his latest film of feature scale, has the outward form of Hollywood melodrama and is jam-packed with movie-buff references. The twin protagonists are stage illusionists using their act as a front for murder and a quest for lost treasure. One of them fancies his assistant; the other her boy-friend; while she herself is involved with another girl. It is pretty and cute and sounds a great deal more intriguing than in fact it is.

Those who see London as a new City of the Plains may well be cheered that the Roxie Club, established only a matter of weeks ago to show quality films on home-erotic themes, is threatened with closure for lack of support. It will give less satisfaction to those who have welcomed several worthwhile oddities that might never have turned up elsewhere in this country.

The Roxie's new (and let us hope not final) presentation is an idiosyncratic item from Holland, Paul de Lussanet's *Dear Boys*, adapted from a novel by the scandalizing writer Gerard Reve. It is an elegant, erotic game about a writer who woos — but fails to keep — a handsome gigolo, with tales of fast cars and sadomasochistic fantasies of wanton youths. The light tone and witty playing redeem the erotica from grossness.

David Robinson

## Concerts

## A tricky acoustic

## LSO/Abbado

Barbican Hall/BBC, Radio 3

The new concert hall in the Barbican Centre seats its audience at three levels, the front row very close indeed to the low dais on which the orchestra sits. The Queen sat in the front row of the circle; behind and above that is a further circle. Leg room, at the back of the stalls, is ample for a tall person; the seats encourage upright posture, are softly upholstered, and wide enough for this fat Englishman's hips.

When you are seated, the appearance of the auditorium is bright and striking, with peanut butter-coloured wood on the gangway steps and behind the orchestra, the latter's curiously shaped to suggest oriental woodwind, or perhaps the pipes of an organ which, we gather, is not there. Above and to the side are red and white striped wooden surfaces which look like Battenburg cake.

In the ceiling the lights are enclosed in what look like inverted brandy balloon glasses, a sparkling effect. On the wood-faced side walls there are small vents, as if for boxes, although they are not for occupation.

I hope that the hum of air-conditioning may be silenced in the auditorium before the next concert: it was a nuisance at the beginning of Elgar's Cello Concerto. For an orchestra as finely tuned as the LSO is when playing for Claudio Abbado, the acoustics of Barbican Hall are tricky at the moment. Perhaps the acoustics are not as good as those of the Royal Festival Hall, the woodwind and strings in the Royal Hall sound better than in the Barbican. At other times the string sound was unnaturally shrill, and cantabile violins seemed to lack body in Beethoven's fourth piano concerto.

It should be emphasized that Barbican audiences will have to return their ears during early visits to the hall: the LSO will surely also find new ranges of sonority and balance, as it settles into its new home. It looks forward to future concerts when it may be possible to hear the same orchestra from different parts of the auditorium.

This first concert offered Wagner and Beethoven, as detailed above, then Elgar's Cello Concerto and Ravel's *La valse*, nothing composed later than the early 1920s: the most recent composer represented was Sir Michael Tippett, who has written the programme notes for the concert (very interesting too, but should not be, or a living compatriot, have contributed a new composition to this momentous, exciting event in London's life?).

The emphasis was plainly on London as an international centre of music, with an Italian conductor in charge of the Barbican's resident orchestra, a Japanese cellist in the Elgar and a Russian-born pianist in the Beethoven. The cello and piano told well by themselves, but both seemed to be showing in self-expression as Vladimir Ashkenazy's reading of the Beethoven was intensely contained and understated.

Both were contributions to an occasion rather than interpretations to remember for ever. The players have the opportunity, too, for changing their minds: a welcome feature of Barbican musical programmes is that each work will be performed several times in various concert contexts.

One's first and most influential impression of the Barbican centre as a place for listening to music is of the grand design in which the acoustics of the concert hall is tucked away seemingly in a corner of the labyrinth. Barbican Hall itself is ripe for exploration, like the complex as a whole. Certainly it will make London's musical life richer, and probably more exciting, to look back from the first syllabus for the opening weeks.

William Mann

## BBCSO/Stockhausen

## Festival Hall

On Wednesday Karlheinz Stockhausen made his first appearance in public with a British orchestra. The Purcell Room was sold out for his pre-concert talk, and there were not enough programmes for an audience considerably larger than that for most BBCSO concerts. The 89-piece orchestra assembled, two mime artists, Elizabeth Clarke and Alain Louafi, poised on a raised dais above the conductor, knelt before their maker and *lori*, "adorations for one or two soloists with orchestra", began.

At the heart of the 70-minute work is embedded a musical germ or "formula"

which, as in Stockhausen's earlier *Musma*, encapsulates the work's energy. Here, though, the process of genesis before it appears complete is further systematized and expanded through a fantastically ingenious and sensitive schema of metre, instrumental timbre, dynamic and finally pitch. The ear is taught to recognize a seemingly inexhaustible pattern of attributes which the eye endorses in a corresponding chromatic scale of 13 prayer gestures which translate sound into "action melody".

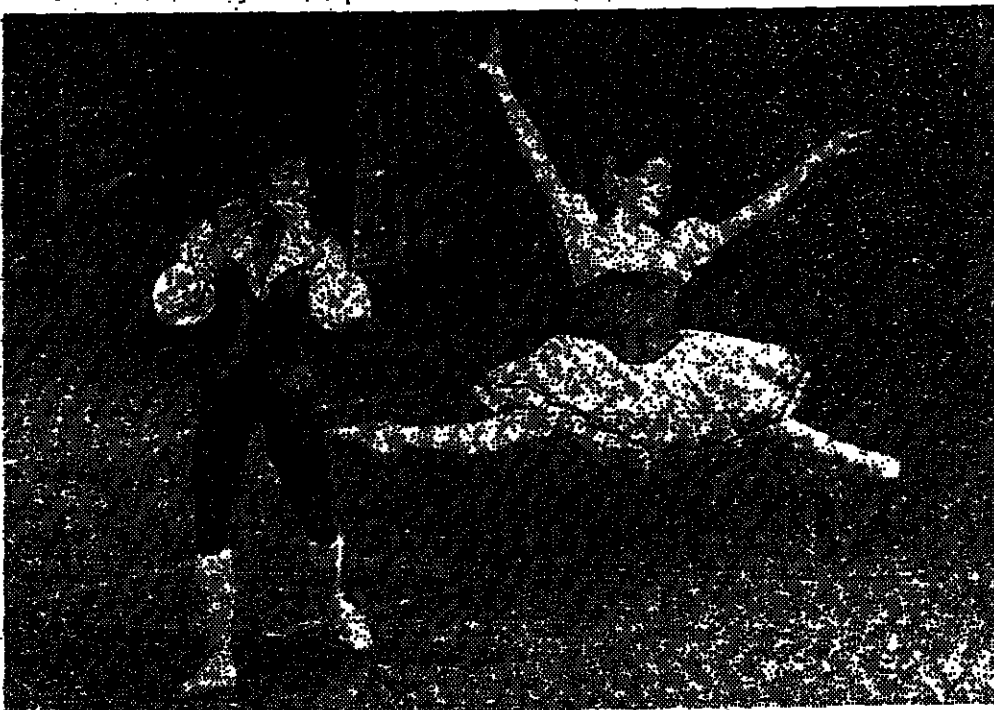
Not until after the "formula" had been presented and its consequent harmonic and polyphonic evolution set into motion could I engage with the work at anything but a cerebral level. For all its emphasis on ritual, on performance, for all its technical aids, seemed irritatingly self-conscious, at times even condescending.

As the latter half progresses and the music's internal energies and conflicts are hatched from idea, the sense of adoration, of wonder at least at the workings of the composer's own microworld burgeons and begins to engage outside itself. But it seemed too late. As composer-conductor walked off, following the upward path through the orchestra taken by the mime artists, the applause had a character all its own. Here was solid respect, flecked with the calls of hero-worship, yet strangely lacking in warmth or spontaneous enthusiasm.

Hilary Finch

## Dance

## Martins confirmed in Balanchine's favour



Peter Martins himself with Darci Kistler in "The Magic Flute"

New York City Ballet is so associated with the life and works of George Balanchine that it is occasionally difficult to remember that it does have other choreographers. Notably, of course, there is Jerome Robbins. But the company has in the past encouraged yet others; most have come from the company itself — Todd Bolender, Jacques d'Amboise and John Clifford among them. Also, although never a dancer with the company, one of the best masters, John Taras, has also been a regular contributor to the company's string of novelties.

Now a newcomer has appeared, taking an increasingly significant role in company activities, Peter Martins. This season, undoubtedly without even the muted fanfare of a single press announcement, Martins has been appointed a ballet-master to the company, a title he now shares with Balanchine, Robbins and Taras.

During the current winter season at Lincoln Center's New York State Theatre, Balanchine has left the new ballets to Martins and Robbins. It could be a harbinger of the future, because, although Balanchine will be much in evidence during this spring's *Stravinsky Festival*, it might be that to some extent, being passed over, Martins, in most ballet circles, is being freely referred to as Balanchine's successor, in which case Robbins would obviously become the principal choreographer. So the two new works, Martins's *The Magic Flute*, showing him as still very much Balanchine's favoured apprentice, and the consummate mastery of Robbins's *The Gershwin Concerto*, took on special significance.

*The Magic Flute* was originally created for students of the School of American Ballet at their annual public performances last summer. The staging for the company, which has proved popular

with audiences, has been considerably amended, and its amplifications are generally a considerable improvement. With new settings by David Mitchell and pleasant peasant costumes by Benson, the ballet looks attractive and even modestly attractive, a rarity for the decoratively spartan City Ballet.

Yet why Martins, or perhaps more specifically Balanchine, wanted this antique curiosity in the repertoire remains a mystery. The idea came from Balanchine himself, with Martins acting strictly on orders. Obviously Balanchine has some vestigial nostalgic affection for this ballet which, with music by Riccardo Drigo, was first staged at St Petersburg's Maryinsky in 1893. It received a chilly reception but remained 'somewhat in the repertoire' and it seems that, as a young dancer growing up in Petrograd, Balanchine on occasion appeared in both

the leading male roles. So much for sentiment.

After its initial production in St Petersburg, it had its New York premiere 20 years later with Anna Pavlova and Alexandre Volinine. The ballet seemed to have died with Pavlova, but there were some apparently unwilling to accept as much. What Martins has done is, of course, not a revival of the lost Ivanov choreography, but a pastiche reconstruction that draws, to some extent, on Martins's Danish schooling and his familiarity with the narrative ballets of Bournonville.

Martins's recreation of the ballet, while possibly unnecessary in the first place — although even that is arguable since it adds to the thin variety of the repertoire — has been achieved uncommonly well. Despite the boring score, Martins has used the simple story — boy, with help of passing god and magic instrument, gets girl away from parents and

marauding marquis — for an exercise of style, his own and the company's. Its bucolic humour is amply and campily acceptable, and the ballet should prove popular.

In the premiere the leading roles were buoyantly danced by the 17-year-old Darci Kistler and, unexpectedly, Peter Martins, who was substituting for an injured Helgi Tomasson, himself substituting for an injured Ib Andersen. At later performances, Tomasson recovered, giving a more animated account of the hero, partnering the 19-year-old Katrina Killian, who had created the role at the original school performances. The Massine-like character part of the Marquis was brightly taken by another young newcomer, Bruce Padgett.

If you wanted to be cute, you could suggest that Jerome Robbins had created a time and motion study in *The Gershwin Concerto*, his just new ballet which has just

been given its world premiere. Yet cuteness was the last thing in Robbins's mind in this complex, scintillating and oddly engaging ballet.

It is Robbins at his most masterly. Over the four decades he has worked as a choreographer, Robbins has captured two things. The first is the art of choreographic characterization — the realization that dancing is an extension of people, not an exploitation of them. His second area of mastery is in the matter of musical visualization.

Consider this new ballet — demonstrating "Gershwin's time and Robbins's motion. The mood of the music — its varied texture — is strange. "Symphonic jazz" set out to combine popular dance forms with classical music. The mixture never gelled, but in the Gershwin Piano Concerto, as in his folk opera *Porgy and Bess*, can be seen all the grounds for the unfounded optimism. Robbins takes the Concerto on its own terms and premises in the Charleston-impregnated first movement, the bluesy second and the uninhibited jazziness of the last.

The ballet is placed against a blue and lavender art deco setting by Santo Loquasto. A handsome, adaptable background, redolent of 1925, the time of the concerto, changes for each movement. Loquasto's simple costumes, rust for the boys, plum for the girls and white for the four principals, appropriately strike up a more contemporary band. The choreography cleverly uses counterpointed movements to define the music, particularly the piano and orchestra. In style it is classical yet not only uses such natural movements as walking, running or — perhaps less natural — waltzing, but also enlivens the piece with wisps of invention, such as an instant when Christopher, an *d'Amboise* whirling a swooned Darci Kistler around his shoulder.

Clive Barnes

## Opera

## Nina Playhouse, Oxford

Of all the composers who tried to write opera in an age that had been made for Mozart, Paisiello was one of the most successful, and *Nina*, or *Mad for Love* one of his most widely performed creations. It was first produced in 1789, the year before *Così fan tutte*, and it reached London in 1797, when this paper was entangled. "The string of sensibility," my predecessor declared, "seldom ceases to vibrate to the electric touch of this exquisite composer."

Well, maybe. One of the virtues of Seamus McGrener's production for the Oxford University Opera Club, which is the second revival anywhere in modern times, is that it is not by any means convinced Paisiello had, his

finger on the pulse of human feeling, and yet it shows how an eighteenth-century audience might have seen *Nina* as the last word in sentimental romance, for the opera played before two audiences, ourselves, and a Regency house party who are touched and amused when they are not singing the choruses. Without the constant presence, and the consequent double focus on the work, *Nina* would seem this stuff. In the first act, we are introduced to the heroine, who has declined to marry a rich man after the supposed death in a duel of her true love. She has a pretty, melancholic aria which Clare Moll here sings beautifully, giving it sensitive expression and stylish ornamentation; the other gem is a quite extraordinary and wholly irrelevant shepherd's song accompanied only by a pair of oboes over a drone. Then, in the second act, *Nina's* Lindoro miraculously reappears and the couple are lengthily reunited.

As Lindoro, Brian Parsons was suffering from a throat infection, but he has a bright, light affecting voice, and Christina Collier is charming as *Nina's* maid, Nell Sissons, conducting, does his best with an orchestra and chorus of rudimentary talent. There are further performances (in English, and with spoken dialogue as originally) tonight and on Saturday.

Paul Griffiths

James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, already filmed three times, has now been turned into an opera. Stephen Paus's work will be given its premiere at the Opera Theatre of St Louis, Missouri, on June 17. There are plans to bring it to the Edinburgh Festival in 1983, together with St Louis's production of Delius's *Requiem* and Gerda, which was highly praised on this page last summer.

Also on this year's St Louis season is the American premiere of Prokofiev's *Maddalena*, of which Edward Downes has completed the orchestration.

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## Foreign Secretaries from the American Revolution to Zimbabwe



Charles James Fox (1782-83) — a humiliating treaty; Sir Edward Grey (1905-16) — foreign affairs dominated politics; Anthony Eden (1935-38, 1940-45, 1951-55), Selwyn Lloyd (1955-60), Lord Carrington (1979-) — coping with Britain's vulnerability to external events

## 200 cheers for the F.O.

by David Watt

The mild and suitably parsimonious rejoicings ordained by Authority this month to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Foreign Office and the Home Office, will not, I suppose, be joined in with universal fervour even in Whitehall. The first of these great Departments of State has never been particularly popular in the world at large, still less in the rest of the official machine, by which it is traditionally regarded as stand-offish and too big for its boots; the second has become generally notorious (and not without some justification) for obscurantism and official ham-handedness.

And yet some kind of celebration is surely in order. For one thing, the original idea was such a bright one. Before the reorganization of March 1782, administration was managed — or rather mismanaged — by two geographical departments, the Northern and the Southern, in one or other of which miscellaneous affairs of state, whether domestic, foreign, or colonial, were shovelled higgledy-piggledy.

History does not relate, so far as I can make out, to whose clerical mind — or when — the blinding revelation was given that things might be better organized by distinguishing those matters which required direct administration (i.e. the home and colonial) from those (i.e. the foreign) which needed quite different diplomatic techniques. But it was undoubtedly a flash of genius that deserves recognition even two centuries later.

Another good reason for rooting around in the dusty attics of bureaucratic history in this fashion was pointed out by Professor Michael Howard in his brilliant commemorative lecture at Chatham House yesterday. The 1782 departmental reshuffle was made possible — perhaps, in part, even prompted — by one of the worst pieces of misman-

agement ever perpetrated by a British Government, namely the loss of the North American colonies. Lord Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown five months earlier brought down Lord North's ministry and opened the way to change, even if it meant that one of the first duties of Charles James Fox, newly-minted Foreign Secretary, was to negotiate the terms of a humiliating treaty.

There are distinct consolations in contemplating this wreckage, not only as a wry example of good coming out of evil, but as a reminder of how calamitous Britain's position then appeared to be. The British past was bright and powerful; the future looked bleak and impoverished; lamentations and predictions of limitless decline filled the air. The fact that within 50 years Britain had become the superpower of the nineteenth century does not prove anything about our national future in the twenty-first century, but it puts a fresh perspective on our present discontents.

To my mind, however, the most interesting aspect of the anniversary is presented by the question of bureaucratic demarcation with which I began. There is an intriguing irony in the fact that we are celebrating the convenient and successful division of our administrative arrangements into internal and external affairs, at a moment when the lines between the two are becoming more and more blurred.

If one follows the preoccupations of British governments since the Foreign Office was established it is possible (by gross oversimplification) to trace a fairly straightforward pattern in three phases. In the first, which covers the century of the nineteenth century, we see the rise of foreign (including, of course, imperial) concerns, in the scale of

importance until by the beginning of this century they dominated all other considerations. The Foreign, Colonial, and India Offices — and of course the attendant War Office and Admiralty — became the power centres of Whitehall; their collective needs and concerns took precedence over, and constantly distorted, all other domestic and economic considerations.

After the First World War, this process was gradually reversed. With the rise of Labour and the welfare state, the domestic imperatives became increasingly insistent until by the 1960s foreign policy could be seen as the handmaid, even the slave, of Britain's internal needs — and particularly of social and economic difficulties.

The third (and current) phase is more balanced and more ambiguous. Britain's vulnerability to external events has steadily increased in the last 20 years and this has enhanced the importance of foreign policy. On the other hand, the interdependence of states and the interpenetration of their economies is now so great on the international scene that almost every aspect of domestic affairs is transformed by them. Interest and exchange rate policy, energy policy, agricultural policy, trade policy, inward and outward investment policy — it is hardly possible to distinguish the internal from the external ramifications of any of them.

Important consequences flow from this, as they also do from the fact that most other countries are in the same boat. One is that the coordination of British policy in the conventional fringe policy field becomes increasingly complicated. The proliferation of Cabinet committees is necessary to prevent wires getting crossed, and that in turn gives more power to the Cabinet Secretariat at the

expense of Departments. Mrs Thatcher's half-banking for a formal Prime Minister's Department has, I gather, been abandoned for the time being, but the force of circumstances is moving things steadily in that direction.

Another result is that the Foreign Office, if it wishes to keep its end up in Whitehall, is obliged to spawn experts on a large variety of subjects formerly regarded as outside its expertise, while at the same time the Treasury, in order to keep a firm control of public expenditure, has amassed experts in defence and defence policy. All this strengthens the hold of the Civil Service in general over policy — at the expense of departmental Ministers, including Foreign Secretaries, who cannot carry everything in their heads and would kill themselves if they tried.

But in the long run it must also affect the position of the Foreign Service itself. The Central Policy Review Staff Report on Overseas Representation (written mainly by domestic-oriented advisers) recommended four years ago that the Home and Foreign Services should be amalgamated on the ground that many of their functions now overlapped. This take-over bid was premature, and was successfully shaken off, but the bidders will undoubtedly be back before many years are out, and they will not always fail.

The future of the office of Foreign Secretary itself is harder to predict. The ease of modern communications and the tendency of governments, particularly in the Third World, to be identified with individual politicians, has made Foreign Secretaries intensely peripatetic, and it is doubtful whether this has actually enhanced their importance or devalued it.

by making them into glorified ambassadors when they should be at home, making policy and fighting their corner in Cabinet.

The crucial factor in all this, naturally, is the Prime Minister. It has always been open to Prime Ministers to appoint weak Foreign Secretaries and to run their own foreign policy. Some, like Gladstone and Salisbury, did so even in the nineteenth century, just as some, like Attlee and Mrs Thatcher, have been more or less ready to do the reverse in modern times. Their own bent and the political needs of the moment will obviously continue to produce wide variations. But again, the long-run trend, here and perhaps throughout the world, seems likely to be at the expense of the existing institutions.

Because domestic politics and domestic economics are at the mercy of international politics and economics, these last are too important to be left to Foreign Offices.

There is an awkward dilemma here. Britain will need to employ diplomacy (defined in Sir Ernest Satow's celebrated words as "the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of relations between governments") more skilfully in the next 20 years than ever before because "influence" must now do the work of power.

We have in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a superb professional machine for executing this purpose. But the question is who is to make policy over the enormous field in which the external and internal factors merge and over which commentators, television pundits, parliamentarians and voters are now swarming.

The Foreign Office would claim to be able to fulfil this function as well, but with the best will in the world and even with an able Foreign Secretary it is hard to see how they can do it.

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## A budget to come to the aid of all parties

by Frank Field, MP

The public discussion on the run-up to the Budget has the same unreal quality about it as in previous years. Almost all the talk centres on how little room there is to manoeuvre and how more than likely, the Chancellor will make little mention of the hundred or so tax reliefs — or tax benefits, to describe them more accurately — which exempt more than 50 per cent of the nation's personal income from tax.

Here is an issue on which MPs across parties should be able to find some agreement. A radical reform of all the tax benefits offers the chance to increase personal freedom of choice — while increasing expenditure on social security benefits. Means — tested benefits build a ceiling over the heads of the poor, thereby cementing them into poverty. Others, like child benefit, act as a floor on which people can build by their own efforts without being penalized. Additional expenditure here allows claimants to spring themselves from poverty. The individual and collective gains on the freedom front should be clear to most taxpayers.

Three tax reforms are essential if increasing personal freedom is to be a main aim of government policy. The first is to allow all tax benefits at the standard rate of tax only. By itself, this change will bring in something like £750m in extra revenue.

A second reform is to put a cash ceiling on all tax benefits other than the personal allowances. How such a policy would work can be seen if we take just one of the main tax benefits. About £2,000m is paid out as mortgage interest relief. It would be wrong to wipe out this benefit overnight, but a cash ceiling could be applied at the current level, and this sum spread over a growing number of owner-occupiers in succeeding years.

The gains from this particular reform are considerable. It has been implemented in 1975, the additional revenue from applying a cash ceiling policy to just four tax benefits is shown in the table below. Over a five-year period the savings

would have amounted to over £3,800m and, in the last year alone, the Exchequer would have collected an additional £1,800m which illustrates just how fast the expenditure on tax benefits is growing.

A third reform must centre on redistributing income from men to women, while at the same time persuading taxpayers to spread more effectively the income earned from up to 40 years' work over the two vulnerable periods in most people's lives — when they have children and when they retire. The lead-in to this reform centres on the married man's tax allowance.

At present, married women gain a tax benefit through the working lives of their husbands, and the tax benefit is paid to their husbands. Some groups advocate the abolition of the married man's tax allowance, but I do not think this can be justified.

The peak period of working-class affluence is when

'Given the low-level of support to families with children in the past, we should not penalize those families now just because their children have reached maturity'

both parents are working and the children have grown up. Given the low level of support to families with children in the past, we should not penalize those families now just because their children have reached maturity.

I do believe it would be politically possible, however, to apply a cash ceiling to the married man's tax allowance and for the money to be channelled to households with children under five. If this "cash-

ceiling" approach had been applied to the married man's tax allowance in 1975/76, then by last year the cash payment for households with children under five would have stood at £10.50 a week. This reform would therefore initiate a steady redistribution of income from men to women, at the same time beginning to rebuild the welfare state so that it acts as a floor on which people can build by their own efforts.

The large increase in revenue resulting from reforming the tax-benefit welfare state should be earmarked to raise the tax threshold, to cut the rates of tax, while at the same time beginning to rebuild the welfare state so that it acts as a floor on which people can build by their own efforts.

A key benefit in remodelling the welfare state is the child-benefit scheme. The larger the injection of funds into this scheme, the greater will be the decrease in the numbers of poor families. And because child benefit is deducted from social-security payments, the larger the child benefit the greater the incentive to work is for those low wage earners with children. Similarly, a major child benefit increase will begin to redress the additional tax burden placed on family taxpayers since 1979.

A flourishing child-benefit system has other advantages. It transfers income from men to women and it increases the range of choices, and thereby the freedom, enjoyed by families. The importance of child benefit in helping to determine the type of society in which we live is therefore difficult to overstate.

But the necessary funds for it will be found only if politicians are prepared to reform the tax-benefit welfare state. For this to happen will require MPs to take a broad viewpoint rather than the traditional approach to the Budget which has dominated debates for the last hundred years or more.

The author is Labour MP for Birkenhead

| Savings on selected tax benefits by applying a cash ceiling 1975/76 | Total savings by 1980/81 |
|---|--------------------------|
| Tax benefit   |                          |
| Life assurance premiums   | 740                      |
| Mortgage interest relief  | 2325                     |
| Pension schemes   | 570                      |
| Retirement annuity relief for the self employed                     | 190                      |
| Total   | 3825                     |

## How Kincora could still harm Ian Paisley

Symbols are important in Northern Ireland. As Martin Smyth, Presbyterian minister, Grandmaster of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and official Unionist parliamentary candidate, gazed across a Belfast housing estate a few days ago, he carried a crumpled Union Jack in one hand, as he shook voters' hands with the other.

The Rev William McCrae of the Free Presbyterian Church, campaigning a mile away, had an equally potent symbol. He was preceded by the head of his church and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, the Rev Ian Paisley.

In competition for the South Belfast seat last year, the Rev Robert Bradford, the DUP and the Official Unionists have slung clerical mud at each other across that half-forgotten gulf which divides

Ulster's unionists. Although the bickering this week reached the threat of war, not one word is about the issue which dominates many conversations away from the hustings and which could alter the shape of Protestant politics: the Kincora homosexual scandal.

The murky story, which combines sex and paramilitary violence in one topic for gossip, will continue to haunt the province's politics long after the result of the by-election is known this afternoon.

Back in the early 1970s British ministers and civil servants cherished the belief that the Official Unionist monopoly of the Protestant vote should be allowed to dismantle itself. If the idea

was to liberate usefully moderate tendencies it has not worked out that way. The subsequent intense competition in intransigence between Paisley and the declining Official Unionists has steadily cut down areas of possible political agreement between the Protestant and Catholic communities. The by-election has been billed as an index of whether the Official Unionists can stop Paisley's bandwagon, but the figures suggest that even if the Official Unionists hold on to the seat — and they probably will — it may still not check Paisley's rise. In local elections last year his party became the first non-Official Unionist group ever to exceed a 20 per cent share of the vote.

In addition to Paisley's rise, the Official Unionists' internal contradiction between wanting devolved power and to cling more tightly to Britain, their shortage of money, their leadership squabbles and their lack of flair have fed the DUP with an unprecedented new coalition of Protestant voters.

The votes in last year's council elections in South Belfast leave the parties almost level. But Smyth is a considerable figure in his own community, McCrae, although backed by an emergency fund, is not from the area. He is probably the only politician in the country who has ever run in a local election against an opponent whose only manifesto prom-

ise was that, if elected, he would hit McCrae. The man was elected and the entire manifesto was carried out.

The Kincora affair is perhaps the only issue which might check Paisley. Events are now in train — fresh investigations by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the RUC inquiries by an outside chief constable, and a judicial inquiry after both of those — which will ensure that the boys' home stays in the news.

William McGrath, house-father of the home and founder of a small Protestant paramilitary splinter group called Tara, is now serving a four-year prison sentence for a variety of homosexual offences against boys under his care. The unanswered

questions are: were all the offences followed up, and who knew what was happening when?

Two people have said they warned Paisley in the early 1970s about McGrath's activities; Paisley has said that one of them who had evidence was not prepared to confront McGrath, and that nobody mentioned to him that in 1972 McGrath was put in charge of Kincora.

Paisley has dismissed the publicity given to the allegations as Republican-inspired, and there claim and counterclaim have stale-mated. But he is said to have been shaken by the row. Even if he did not know McGrath worked at Kincora, the man who launched a Save Ulster from Sodomy cam-

paign and — in improbable alliance with the local Roman Catholic hierarchy — will now oppose the Government's intention to bring Northern Ireland's homosexuality laws into line with the rest of the country, does not appear to have pursued the allegations with great vigour. McGrath was simply banned from using a Free Presbyterian church for an Orange Order service.

If Paisley has reached the peak of his popularity, or if it were to decline, the balance of Unionist power and the chances of any initiative which Mr Prior, the Northern Ireland Secretary, might get off the ground would be changed. In standing for any possible assembly, Paisley would certainly ask for a

mandate to wreck the London-Dublin talks, and the Official Unionists would have to follow suit.

Should Paisley build successfully on his 26.5 per cent share of the vote last year and reach 30 per cent, he could stall an assembly indefinitely on that issue. The 70 per cent "weighted majority" figure in Mr Prior's scheme is designed on the assumption that he will not reach 30 per cent.

That speculative arithmetic assumes that Mr Prior will solve the other problems still standing in the way of his plans, now due to be announced in the first week of April. Most important of all, he has yet to convince the Social Democratic and Labour Party that there is anything in it for them.

George Brock

## A revolutionary epic finds its way West

Collins-Harvill, the imprint which published Doctor Zhivago, has secured rights to an "anti-revolutionary" epic which terrified the Soviet authorities even more than Pasternak's great book. Vasily Grossman's *Life and Fate* was completed in 1962, and promptly impounded by officers of the KGB who seized not only the manuscript, typescripts and rough drafts, but even the typewriter ribbons and sheets of carbon paper Grossman had used. Grossman himself was not arrested, but he said that the arrest of his novel made him feel as if he had been strangled. He died 18 months later.

Only one other manuscript has been confiscated in such a way — Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago* — which is a mine of factual historical information which might otherwise have been obliterated. Though Grossman was the first writer in any country to describe a Nazi extermination camp in detail, *Life and Fate* is a traditional, realistic, historical novel, comparable in scope to *War and Peace*.

Grossman was told before he died that there could be no hope of the novel being printed for the next two or three centuries, yet two copies of the complete text recently reached an emigre Russian man-of-letters in Paris. The acquisition of the English language rights was negotiated by Mark Bonham-Carter, a member of the publishing board

of Collins and chairman of *Index on Censorship*, the journal which has already published a dramatic extract from the book.

## Lost loos

They keep moving the loos, one hapless guest complained to PHS as the glittering, swirling carnival that was the official opening of the Barbican Centre got underway on Wednesday evening. Are we on level seven or eight or another puzzled?

What with the wine and the canapes, and the wine and the music, and the wine and the fireworks, and the wine and the midnight supper, such disorientation was inevitable. A pikeman dropped his pike on the head of Anthony Camden, the London Symphony Orchestra's chairman, just as he was to be presented to the Queen. The man sitting next to PHS during the Royal Shakespeare Company's pantomime fell asleep, snoring loudly.

The most bracing part of the evening was when the dinner jacketed through met the yelping and whistling residents of the nearby flats as the Reverend Ronald Lancaster's fireworks exploded above the spire of St Giles' Cripplegate in fantastic pyrotechnical celebration.

At this moment in time PHS must accept that trade union talk has worked its way up to a ruling situation as far as the English language is concerned. Opening the Barbican Centre, the Queen said: "At the end of the day..."

## THE TIMES DIARY



Christopher Driver, the editor of the Good Food Guide, has been offered by one of his principal winners. The 1982 Guide is to be published on March 15, and its verdicts are supposed to be a closely-guarded secret until then. Yet already Kay and Paul

Henderson of Gidleigh Park at Chagford in Devon have sent out press releases announcing that theirs has been rated one of the three top restaurants and hotels in the country. Joining the Connaught and Miller House in winning all three distinctions symbols the Guide awards. "One really rather regrets having honoured such a boastful so-and-so," said Driver when told.

## Tops at talking

We may not be good at much but, PHS can reveal, Britain has regained its position as the biggest talking shop in the world. Figures to be published on Monday by the Union of International Associations in Brussels will show that London hosted as many international conferences as Paris last year (292 each), but that the United Kingdom as a whole, with 545, beat France and the United States to top the international league.

## Russian rumours

Blithely unaware of the rumours swirling around Moscow at the moment, President Brezhnev yesterday went to the theatre, taking half the Politburo with him. They saw a new play about Lenin, entitled "Thus We will be Victorious" at the Moscow arts theatre. The performance was officially declared a "great success".

The Soviet leader does not often go to the theatre — ice

hockey matches are more his line of enjoyment — but this play, starring one of the country's top actors Alexander Kalyagin, is clearly special.

For those determined to see conspiracy theories around them, there is a nice irony in the visit. The play deals with Lenin's final year of life and the question of his succession. Recently the youngest member of the Politburo, 51-year-old Mikhail Gorbachev, went along and led the applause. Last any inference might be drawn, President Brezhnev was accompanied yesterday by Arvid Pelsbe, at 83 the oldest Politburo member.

## Singular star

In the superb and youthful cast of Julian Mitchell's *Another Country* at the Queen's Theatre it is fair to single out Kenneth Branagh only because without him the play would never have reached the West End. Robert Fox, the producer, had to fight to get him, because Branagh comes to a leading role straight from the

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. More than 100 young actors auditioned for the role of Judd, the communist public schoolboy in whom Mitchell has drawn the young idealists of the Spanish Civil War, John Cornford and Esmond Romilly.

Branagh, who swept the board of prizes at RADAA, was so outstanding that Fox and director Stuart Burgis successfully pleaded to the London theatres' council in which managers sit with Equity representatives, that the production could not do without him, and that the usual rules about apprenticeship in the provinces had to be waived. Branagh's drama school career sharply contrasts that of his brilliant co-star, Rupert Everett, who takes the Guy Burgess character in Mitchell's play. Everett was thrown out of the Central School of Drama after a year for being "too awkward."

Such is the excitement in the Commons about the possible security risks posed by young American researchers that our social services correspondent, who has been reporting Parliament for more than 18 years, was yesterday twice challenged and asked to identify herself. It has never happened to her before.

## Body blow

PHS is not very keen on corporal punishment, and so is a little put to have been the recipient of a short, sharp missive from an organization called Dove. It is addressed to the staff of *The Times* in general and complains bitterly about our coverage of the



European Court of Human Rights decision, and of the disorders at St Saviour's primary school, Liverpool. It concludes: "Why don't you go back to hell, you evil child-haters, and take your 'bring presses with you' Yours, and hurry up and close down for good the progress of this Lane. (Signed) Barry C. Vaughan (Negotiator)."

The British Museum lost some of its charm yesterday. The mighty chandelier about the staircase in the Edward VII wing crashed down, sending one visitor sprawling in fright.

## Hard cheese

The landlord of Egon Ronay's English Cheese Pub of 1982 was told just three days before receiving his award last month, that his licence would not be renewed. Now the pub, the Plough at Rusper, West Sussex, is up for sale by auction.

Peter Andrews took over the licence last May from his mother. In September he was convicted for possession of cannabis, not on the premises but at his home two miles away, and fined £40. When his licence, which expires in April, came up for renewal the police objected.

The Andrews family still hope they will be allowed to retain the pub, with Ronay complimented on its range of real ales, beamed bar and lawn garden as well as the cheeseboard. At Horsham on Friday week they will apply for the licence to be transferred to Andrews's father, John, and the manager, Derek Welton.

## Diary Quiz

Our cryptic clues to the week's events:

- 1 Who said sorry with a daftoid?
- 2 Which group of workers got 14 per cent plus perks?
- 3 Where has Prince Rajitsinjhi joined the Ku Klux Klan?
- 4 Which Welsh boyo was memorably laid by Mary Evans?
- 5 Where was another wonder of the world set off with a series of bangs?

Solutions on Monday.

PHS





PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## NO CREDIT IS DUE

The western response to events in Poland is still in a mess. It is now nearly three months since martial law was imposed, and nearly two months since the Nato meeting in Brussels agreed in principle on sanctions, including the suspension of commercial credits. So far these sanctions have had the effect of making life slightly more difficult for the Polish regime. For instance, about forty per cent of Polish industry is now idle for lack of western components. But there is no sign that the sanctions are biting politically. Indeed, the situation is getting worse. General Jaruzelski's visit to Moscow seemed still further the lifting of martial law. The news that internees are to be offered immigration to the West is another sign that attempts at dialogue with Solidarity are being abandoned. As Mr Humphrey Atkins admitted in the Commons on Wednesday, there is no change of heart on the part of the Polish authorities.

What is the West to do? Polish liberals who have been sent to the West on missions of persuasion argue that western sanctions are helping the hardliners by reducing the standard of living and pushing the Polish economy into deeper dependence on Moscow. It is difficult to accept this reasoning. Western sanctions are limited and conditional. It has been made clear that they will be lifted when martial law is lifted, the internees are released, and dialogue resumed with Solidarity.

The West therefore has no political or economic interest in making life easier for a neo-Stalinist regime. The blunt message should be that if the Russians insist on having such a regime in Warsaw they should pay the full price for it, which means taking over the full burden of Poland's economy and paying its debts. If they do not like this, and want the West to share the burden, then they must listen to western conditions. This is not "unwarranted interference", but basic banking.

To make the western message convincing the first step is to move faster and more effectively with the sanctions agreed in Brussels. This will be difficult. The western system is based on free enterprise and free competition, so it cannot easily harness commerce to politics. There is also a natural reluctance to lose good contracts and the jobs that go with them. Nevertheless, if the West is to be taken seriously it must be prepared to make sacrifices, and there are certain things that governments can do, particularly with regard to credits.

If these moves have no effect the West should make a direct threat to declare Poland in default. Obviously, if carried out, this would create serious problems in the West. Some western banks would go bankrupt unless supported. The PSBR would be raised by the need to honour government guarantees. But the consequences for Poland would be worse because it would be reduced to trading in cash, and it cannot do without western trade. There would also be repercussions on the rest of eastern Europe. On balance, therefore, the bargaining power is with the West. It should be used.

To throw the entire Polish economic mess into the lap of the Russians would be logical, specific and very expensive for the Russians, but if they want an oppressive and inefficient regime in Poland they should take full economic as well as political responsibility.

## SWORDS AND PLOUGH SHARES

Mr John Nott's announcement about increasing the reservists and providing adventure training for a few thousand unemployed youngsters is to be welcomed, as far as it goes, but it does not go very far. Last June he said that the Government was determined to give greater emphasis to the reserve forces, and this has now resulted in an increase of 16,000 men in the Territorial Army. No increase, however small, should be decreed, but Mr Nott has failed to go to the heart of the question of reserve military power, and he should try again.

Britain's strategic defence policy is based on the principle of nuclear deterrence. However, since the abolition of conscription, all Governments have found it convenient to hide behind that policy as being the only defence policy we need, on the ground that the only danger we face is of a total breakdown of defence, rather than a partial one. Hence we only need a nuclear bomb, with a small number of volunteer armed forces, backed up by even fewer reservists.

This goes against the whole principle of reserve power, which should be based on the view that — in peacetime, or relative peacetime such as we have — one's standing force should only be allowed to contract if the reserve forces correspondingly expand. In

that way the nation preserves machinery for military expansion to meet a whole range of future emergencies, not just the too narrowly defined contingency of a breakdown in nuclear deterrence. The bankruptcy of this policy was fully apparent only a few years ago when the strain of law enforcement in Northern Ireland virtually incapacitated the army for any other purpose, in spite of its continuing pretence to meet Nato and global commitments.

Mr Nott's new reservists, therefore, will provide some temporary palliative to the regular army. But, if even Northern Ireland can incapacitate us, any future emergency will reveal much more starkly how gravely the Chiefs of Staff have neglected their duty to provide Britain with appropriate machinery for expansion of the services to meet unexpected emergencies.

The proposal for adventure training is also an attractive one, but incomplete. Mr Nott said that the very low numbers leaving the armed services, and the consequential reduction in recruitment, had produced some spare capacity in the training establishments of all three services. That training capacity should not be frittered away providing canoe trips and such like. It is the seed corn of the country's future military potential. But it is more than this, since military

trade training improves the quality of those who pass through the machine in a social as well as a military sense. Social and military qualities are not necessarily incompatible. There is more to military training now than learning to kill. There is more to it even than gunnery, tactics or fieldcraft. It is noticeable that four out of every five recruits enlist because they wish to learn a trade which would be valuable to them later as civilians.

The national value of this training machine is thus not only that it trains servicemen with technical skills. Most of these skills are as relevant to industry, as they are to the military. There is much exchange of information and experience between service training establishments and their counterparts in industry, particularly in junior management and trade training. When the economy picks up we will again need more skilled manpower than exists. We should harness the military training machine to this future industrial and economic requirement, by using its spare capacity now to turn out young men and women trained in modern techniques. In peacetime there is always pressure to turn swords into ploughshares. But we should not forget the service training machine's ability to turn out swordsmen who are ploughmen too; and the better for it.

More power to the elbows of campaigning commentators, but the apparently willful failure of Ms Fallaci to honour the patent integrity of this troubled politician angered and saddened me. The fact that I am consoled by your leading article does not help me to understand why you bought the Fallaci piece in the first place.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID P. McLAUGHLIN,  
8 Northolme Road, Islington, N5.

From Mr Norman Gear

Sir, May I protest against the appalling distortion of Marxist philosophy which appears in the leader column of your paper today (February 24). You write in connection with the Polish Deputy Premier, "he speaks as a true Marxist when he utters the chilling remark that 'in politics the individual does not count'".

Anyone who has read Marx will know that throughout his life he stressed the right, and the need, of the individual to fulfil his unique nature within a just society. It was Marx's argument that it was the capitalist system which denied, frustrated and perverted human nature. Looking around Western Europe today, with its ever more tasteless commercialism and its millions of unemployed, who can deny that he was right?

Yours sincerely,  
NORMAN GEAR,  
55 Caeleion Road,  
Dinas Powis,  
South Glamorgan.

Page of honour

From Mr William Shawcross

Sir, If as your diarist alleges, (February 26), the enemies of Grace Page, till now the editor of the *New Statesman*, consider him "the Pol Pot of British journalism", then no one would want such people as friends. Far from being a force of evil and wanton destruction, Grace Page is a brilliantly creative and original journalist who has immeasurably enriched British reporting. He was the driving force behind many of the most important investigations published over the last fifteen years. The list of young journalists whom he has generally encouraged is longer still. I hope he's in the business a long time yet.

Yours etc.,  
WILLIAM SHAWCROSS,  
17 Parkhill Road, NW3.

## Case for Belvoir coalfield

From Mr Madron Seligman, MEP for West Sussex (Conservative) and others

Sir, The letter from Mr Joe Gormley (February 17) answers Mr Ronald Butt's article about the proposed development of north-east Leicestershire coalfield with a strong argument in favour of the need to exploit the UK's natural resources. However, the case for proceeding with this project is even wider than that.

The European Commission supported the development of this coalfield at the public enquiry, arguing that the European Community must maintain a substantial and economically viable coal industry to avoid still greater dependence on imported energy. A healthy coal mining industry as the Government has often said, plays a vital part in Community security as well as economic strategy.

At present the demand for coal is artificially low, due to world-wide recession. Consequently stocks are building up and people are questioning the need for additional mining capacity. This can only be a short-term view. By the year 2000 it is calculated that European coal consumption will rise from the present 314 million tons to over 500 million tons a year, as supplies of alternative fuels, oil and gas, decline.

Britain's coal industry will have a key role to play in this situation, by investing in new capacity. Even so, it is estimated that Europe will still be dependent on imports of coal in the year 2000, amounting to some 240 million tons, against the present 74 million tons.

Furthermore, unless new mines are opened, skilled miners will have no jobs to go to when their present mines are exhausted, and the Community can ill afford to lose such men. Compared to work thousands of feet underground.

The environmental impact of deep mines on "green field" sites can be greatly reduced if precautions are taken from the beginning. While the first coal from the new north-east Leicestershire coalfield will probably not emerge before the early 1990s we must be sure that any effect on the local environment is reduced to the absolute minimum.

Yours faithfully,  
MADRON SELIGMAN,  
J. SCOTT-HOPKINS,  
FRED CATERWOOD,  
ROBERT MORELAND,  
European Democratic Group,  
22 Bedford Square, SW1,  
March 3.

Troubled Poland

From Mr D. P. McLaughlin

Sir, Two cheers for your perceptive leading article, "Portrait of a party man" (February 24). Your reasoned assessment of the political difficulties faced by the Polish Deputy Premier, Mr Rakowski, offers some reassurance for the oft-repeated but unproven claim that the communist regime in Poland is crumbling. Your interview with Ms Fallaci which you published on the Monday and Tuesday.

The travail of Poland is too tragic a matter for the Poles, the Soviet Russian sphere of influence and the world, to be trivialized by the personality-clashing prose of irate journalists.

More power to the elbows of campaigning commentators, but the apparently willful failure of Ms Fallaci to honour the patent integrity of this troubled politician angered and saddened me. The fact that I am consoled by your leading article does not help me to understand why you bought the Fallaci piece in the first place.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID P. McLAUGHLIN,  
8 Northolme Road, Islington, N5.

From Mr Norman Gear

Sir, May I protest against the appalling distortion of Marxist philosophy which appears in the leader column of your paper today (February 24). You write in connection with the Polish Deputy Premier, "he speaks as a true Marxist when he utters the chilling remark that 'in politics the individual does not count'".

Anyone who has read Marx will know that throughout his life he stressed the right, and the need, of the individual to fulfil his unique nature within a just society. It was Marx's argument that it was the capitalist system which denied, frustrated and perverted human nature. Looking around Western Europe today, with its ever more tasteless commercialism and its millions of unemployed, who can deny that he was right?

Yours sincerely,  
NORMAN GEAR,  
55 Caeleion Road,  
Dinas Powis,  
South Glamorgan.

Page of honour

From Mr William Shawcross

Sir, If as your diarist alleges, (February 26), the enemies of Grace Page, till now the editor of the *New Statesman*, consider him "the Pol Pot of British journalism", then no one would want such people as friends. Far from being a force of evil and wanton destruction, Grace Page is a brilliantly creative and original journalist who has immeasurably enriched British reporting. He was the driving force behind many of the most important investigations published over the last fifteen years. The list of young journalists whom he has generally encouraged is longer still. I hope he's in the business a long time yet.

Yours etc.,  
WILLIAM SHAWCROSS,  
17 Parkhill Road, NW3.

## Practical benefits of national service

From Lieutenant General Sir John Cowley

Sir, Your leading article of February 27, on the subject of the abolition of national service in this country 25 years ago contains the sentence "a security reassured by the self-satisfaction of the armed forces at being once again left alone with their professional skills". The social consequences of the abolition seem also to have been ignored.

I recollect clearly a meeting held in London shortly before the final decision to abolish national service was taken. I was instructed to attend this meeting to represent the War Office view, as the Army was the service to be most affected by this decision.

A number of speakers who were professors of education, sociology and other related subjects spoke first. The main theme of their speeches was that national service was damaging to the youth of this country and, if it were abolished, school leavers would go straight to further education, or to jobs in industry or the professions without wasting eighteen months or two years of their formative life in the armed services. Your paper indeed wrote a leading article headed "Wasting time", a quote from my short speech saying that from my point of view it was doing something they do not want to do is "wasting time".

The only speech in favour of retaining national service was made by the War Office representative. I said that it had turned out that the regular services to training organizations for young men, and from a professional point of view this could not be considered the role for which the services had been formed, but there was no doubt that from the wider point of view it was beneficial to the youth of the country. It instilled a sense of comradeship and discipline during the early years of a young man's life, the old Etonian met the shop floor worker on equal terms, and both received the same treatment from the sergeant-major. These same two might today be working together in the same company.

When their national service was over, each man was asked the question on a slip of paper "Do you consider your period of national service?" No signature was required. Over 90 per cent answered "Yes".

The psychologists and the sociologists won the day. National service was abolished and cannot now be restarted. But 25 years later and blanded "undernourished" and overpaid "armed forces", self-satisfied "at being once again left alone with their professionalism" is hardly fair.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN COWLEY,  
Whytemole, Sandy Down,  
Lynton, Devon.

Human rights

From the Archbishop of the Indian Ocean

Sir, The foreign policy of the British Government with regard to human rights is now so ambivalent as to have lost all moral content. On the one hand it supports massive sanctions against both the USSR and Poland and demands an end to apartheid law and the release of Mr Lech Walesa and all other detainees.

On the other it is totally opposed to effective sanctions against South Africa, whose government has for generations denied basic human rights to the majority of its own citizens, is in illegal occupation of Namibia and has, in recent months, greatly increased its aggression against virtually all its African neighbours.

On February 5 this year yet another detainee, Dr Neil Aggett, was found dead in his cell.

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR HUDDLESTON, CR,  
Bishops House,  
Phoenix,  
Mauritius,  
February 25.

Most people would accept that the long term aim in El Salvador must be to establish there a government which is acceptable to the majority of its people. No reasonable person can believe that the election now planned, taking place in conditions of civil conflict, with substantial parts of the country under the control of the government and others disturbed by continual fighting, can provide any indication of what sort of government the people of El Salvador desire.

Negotiations could be the means of establishing a coalition government, representing different political forces in the country, which could then prepare the way for elections on mutually agreed terms. Such elections, since they could take place in peaceful conditions, are more likely to bring about a government most people in El Salvador could support than those that are now to take place.

Is this not the course which the EEC should now be urging on the United States administration?

Yours faithfully,  
EVAN LUARD,  
35 Observatory Street,  
Oxford.

Oxford today

From Mr K. M. Spence

Sir, In seeking to refute a prejudice that would discourage young people from Oxford entry, because it "would simply preserve a rotten system", Mr Harry Judge, Tutor for Admissions at Brasenose, (February 24) hurries by a significant change in the selection method, which has implications on the product.

In 1949 my entry to Brasenose included an interview by a number of college fellows acting together in the common weal. Twenty years later my son was questioned by only one subject tutor at the same place, who seemed concerned by specialist points alone.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH M. SPENCE,  
60 Ellery Street,  
Fulham, SW6,  
February 25.

A mixed group of different opinions suggests a balanced, catholic result for the "whole man". Solo judgment may favour only those who would ultimately reflect credit on the specialist tutor. Which is the best method and potential product for the individual, college and university?

I was accepted. My son was rejected. He subsequently gained a first at the LSE and led several extra-curricular activities. Ironic, isn't it? There is something of Spewlow and Jorkins about Mr Judge's choice of ground.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH M. SPENCE,  
60 Ellery Street,  
Fulham, SW6,  
February 25.

From Mr Peter Plovič

Sir, The appointment of Sir William Rees-Mogg as chairman of the Arts Council is disturbing in that it has been said that he will remain vice-chairman of the BBC while carrying out his new responsibilities.

We believe that both the BBC and the Arts Council of Great Britain are bodies of immense importance to the artistic and cultural life of Britain, but that it is desirable for them to remain completely independent of each other. The Arts Council should be complementary but quite distinct functions.

Although Sir William may be admirably qualified for either of the positions in question, we do not believe that he or anyone else should hold both simultaneously.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER PLOVIČ,  
General Secretary of the British Actors Equity Association,  
8 Harley Street, W1.

Women's equality

From Mr George Mandel

Sir, I wish Jill Tweedie's letter about women in the SDP (February 23) had contained less abuse and more of the thoughtfulness she claims to favour.

One question that thoughtful members of the SDP might like to consider, especially if they have not made up their minds how to vote in the forthcoming ballot on the proposal at issue (that half the places on the party's National Council should be reserved for women), is what will happen if the proposal is adopted and subsequently regretted. Getting it rescinded will not be at all easy. Altering a provision of the constitution will require a two-thirds majority on the council; but what council elected under such a system is ever likely to contain such a majority?

To elect a council that is abolitionist on this issue would require far more than a two-thirds majority among SDP members as a whole — something unlikely to be the case with any other provision of the constitution. This built-in self-perpetuation of the proposed rule ought to be more widely understood, because it shows up the rule's fundamentally undemocratic nature so clearly.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE MANDEL,  
The Old Stores,  
Combe,  
Oxford,  
February 28.

Seats of punishment

From Professor C. P. Fitzgerald

Sir, In the article of March 3 "Few will escape seat belt laws" the article concludes with the dread admonition that "the driver will be responsible for ensuring that children under 14 are belted in a front seat." With, or without their parents' consent?

Yours faithfully,  
C. P. FITZGERALD,  
Savile Club,  
69 Brook Street, W1,  
March 3.

## Palumbo plan for Mansion House

From Sir John Summerson, FBA

Sir, Some ten years ago I saw the plans of Mr Peter Palumbo's Mansion House project (*The Times*, February 25) when they were exhibited at the Royal Exchange. They seemed to me then to represent a marvellously exciting architectural adventure which should be put in hand directly. Now these plans are again before us with long-term but wholly realistic proposals for their execution. They still seem to me to promise a beneficial and in many ways beautiful alteration of the City scene, but on every hand come warnings that they will not do.

A variety of reasons is given. 1. Miss van der Rohe is "old hat". 2. A number of "listed" buildings would be lost. 3. The monumental elevations exposed to the new square were not meant to be seen like that. 4. Open spaces contrived in built-up areas are drab and soulless. 5. The new square is not "in character" with London. My experience of architectural change over 60 years leads me to feel some sympathy with some of these objections but when I come to add them up I find myself with a pathetic aggregate of disconnected and even contradictory half-truths at the root of which is a deep-seated fear that, in our time, any change in an urban environment is certain to be for the worse.

Now, if the Palumbo scheme is frustrated, what happens? The listed buildings in Poultry and Queen Victoria Street will be retained, skin deep, with new insides, offering to the public a moderately interesting museum of mid-Victorian architecture. This is all right, but at what a cost! The opportunity will have been lost of creating, in what has become a high-rise City, what I would like to call a "forum of release" from the tensions which gather so breeding around the Mansion House, the Royal Exchange and the Bank.

The new square would not, of course, be a "London square" in the traditional sense or anything like. It would be unique and peculiar, its success unpredictable in a town-planning enterprise. But I believe there is more to be said for it, and by people with more town-planning expertise than I possess, than has, so far, been said against it.

Yours etc.,  
JOHN SUMMERSON,  
1 Eton Villas, NW3,  
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Arts Council chairman

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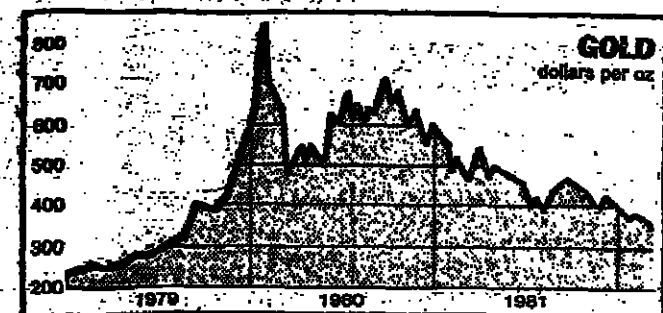






## BUSINESS NEWS

## Gold fall continues



The price of gold fell below \$350 an ounce yesterday for the first time since September 1979, closing \$325 down in London at \$344.25. This represents a loss of \$22.25 on the week, and compares with \$400 an ounce fetched at the beginning of the year. Heavy persistent selling yesterday, came with gloom over world recession and high interest rates, coupled with worries that more long-term holders of gold, notably in the Middle East, may try to sell.

## SE supports dealers' rules

The Stock Exchange yesterday expressed support for the new rules controlling the activities of licensed dealers in securities. However, it is not prepared to concede that stockbrokers should be bound by similar rules. One of the main amendments to the rules for licensed dealers proposed by the Department of Trade was that clients' money must be kept in a separate bank account from company funds. The Stock Exchange insists that a similar requirement for stockbrokers is unnecessary.

## Call to build warships

The Government has been urged to initiate a co-ordinated programme to boost sales of British-built warships to foreign navies. Ministers have also been asked to consider allowing British shipbuilders to build warship hulls on a speculative basis to preserve skills and maintain employment. No orders have been taken in the past eight years. The all party Industry and Trade Select Committee, said yesterday that the Corporation felt the Government was not backing the corporation's warship marketing effort sufficiently.

## Weather hits beer output

Beer production in January dropped 21.5 per cent, because of the bad weather, according to the Brewers' Society. December's weather hit sales leaving higher stocks than usual in the retail pipeline, with a consequent decline in January orders. Poor weather in early January compounded the effect. The underlying trend is of a 6 per cent fall with current retail sales of beer down by at least that amount.

Development of a new North Sea oil field, the Balmuccia discovery 120 miles north east of Aberdeen, was nearer yesterday with the announcement of a successful well by the British National Oil Corporation on block 16/21b.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Gifts are Budget gamble

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 556.7 up 1.5  
FT All share 321.73 up 0.24  
Bargains 23,830

Interest rates continue to dominate market sentiment yesterday as both gilts and equities advanced in active trades. Government securities were the main feature, scoring 5% in shorts as the market gambled on a further 1% per cent cut in interest rates ahead of next Tuesday's budget.

The bulls again gained the upper hand in equities, where the FT index closed 1.5 up at 556.7, having been 2.4 higher at midday. Oils remained dull, still reflecting Wall Street's post-exception to the decision by BIOC to cut the price of North Sea oil by up to \$4 a barrel. Shell Transport slipped 4p to 339p as a line of 200,000 shares came on offer, with Ultramar losing 2p to 21p as a seller at 175,000 failed to agree on the right price.

Fleet Holdings, the Trafalgar House offshoot, its debut closing at 23p, after 24.5p, which valued the company at about £14m, with about 10 million of the total 60 million share changing hands. Trafalgar House ended 1p lower at 121p.

Video group intervention has been suspended at 10p as the group prepares to make the change from rule 163 to the unlisted securities market. Mean-

## COMMODITIES

● Silver and platinum followed gold down. Silver spot bullion was fixed at 412.35p an ounce, a fall of 14.9p, and the lowest since 1979. Three months bullion was down by 15.55p to 426.1p an ounce.

● Platinum reached its lowest point since 1978, falling by \$10 to \$326.50 an ounce. No recovery is expected in either silver or platinum until gold revives.

● Tin slipped again despite support by the International Tin Agreement buffer stock. Cash tin was £7,045 a tonne, £36 a tonne lower on the day, and three months metal fell 220 to £7,275. Tin for immediate delivery traded down to £8,990 in the morning. Purchases by consumers, who have taken advantage of lower prices were less evident, and the broker identified with the buying group which dominated the market was a lender of forward metal.

## TODAY

Housing starts and completions (January); house renovations (fourth quarter); hire purchase and other instalment credit business (January); company liquidity survey (fourth quarter).

Board meetings: Interim; Courteney Pope Holdings, R P Martin, RVO Estates, Westminster and Country Properties. Final: Alliance Trust, Ault and Wiborg, Royal Tea, Williamson & Co.

## OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo/Nikkei Dow Jones average: 7,354.82 down 118.60.  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1,140.58 down 56.11.

## CURRENCIES

● The pound maintained its resilient performance despite lower oil prices and expectations of a fall in interest rates.

## LONDON CLOSE

STERLING \$1.8280 up 60 points  
Index 91.0 up 0.2  
DM 4.3250  
Fr 11.0450  
DOLLAR Index 113.0 down 0.1  
DM 2.3655 down 55 pts  
GOLD \$344.25 down \$8.25

## MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates were slightly easier where changed. The Bank, forecasting a shortage of £450m, bought £52m of bills outright at unchanged rates and £392m of bills for repurchase by the houses on March 17 and 31.

Domestic Rates:  
Base rates 13%  
3-month interbank 13 1/4% - 13 1/2%

Euro-Currency Rates  
3-month dollar 14 1/4% - 14 1/2%  
3-month DM 9 1/4% - 9 1/2%  
3-month Fr 15 1/4% - 15 1/2%

## Strike may cost railways Post Office contract

The Post Office is considering switching a larger proportion of letters and parcels to road and air transport as a result of the disruption to the postal service caused by the recent series of train drivers' strikes.

This new tough stance is being adopted by PO executives in negotiations that are now taking place with British Rail over the renewal of contracts - worth £49m last year for the rail network - for the district network of mail. Post Office negotiators, led by Mr Alan Clinton, the

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

centres causing dislocation in service. As a result, only 70 per cent of first class mail was delivered the following day after posting compared with the figure of 90 per cent usually claimed by the Post Office. In consequence, the Post Office is claiming compensation from the railways of about £2m.

The Post Office has distributed the mail by train for more than 100 years and recognizes that there is no practicable alternative for most letters and parcels. During the rail strikes, it

assured postal workers' unions that all mail diverted to other means of transport would return to the trains once the dispute was settled.

However, Mr Clinton and his team are attempting to extract the most advantageous terms from BR which is aware that the loss of just 2 per cent of the postal business could be worth £1m a year in revenue.

A PO spokesman said yesterday: "The Post Office owes it to its customers to get the best possible deal." British Rail has estimated

that its revenue losses during the six-week drivers' dispute were more than £60m and fears that up to £150m a year of freight and passenger business could be lost permanently.

Discussions on the contract renewal are taking place against a background of Post Office confidence that it will turn in a profit of £80m this year and disclaim that it will be unable to meet its £220m investment plans next year because of continuing government-imposed financing constraints.

## BL loses £500m despite car boost

By Clifford Webb Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Sir Michael Edwards, the chairman of BL, is expected to reveal shortly that despite a £100m improvement from the former Austin Morris volume car operation, the state-controlled group lost £500m last year, compared with £535m in 1980.

In his fourth and last annual report, Sir Michael, who has said he will leave in the autumn, is expected to reveal the extent of the turnaround in the performance of the light medium car side which is believed to have reduced its loss from £250m in 1980 to £150m last year.

But this improvement has been largely offset by the collapse of the truck and bus markets served by Leyland Vehicles. Losses of £47m in the first half have continued and Leyland Vehicles will be lucky to hold them to £80m for the year as a whole.

There has been little change in Jaguar's 1980 loss of £20m. A big improvement in its vital American sales came in the last quarter of the year but it was too late to influence the year-end results. But it could lead to it breaking even this year and making a profit in 1983.

Unipart, the group's parts and accessories company, and Land Rover are left as the only profitable operations.

Plant closures and redundancies have been costly but with the cars' labour force reduced from the present 76,000 to 68,000 by the end of this year, BL should be on target for a 1982 loss on cars of between £70m and £80m.

Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, BL Cars employee relations director, has told union leaders that a labour force of 68,000 will be the "ideal fighting weight" with which to launch the new range of cars headed by LM 10 in spring 1983 and LM 11 in 1984.

BL is taking advantage of a government-subsidized scheme to recruit 14 graduate engineers for a three-year contract. BL will pay half of their £8,000 a year salaries and the remainder will be shared by the Science and Engineering Industry and Research Council (SERC) and the Department of Industry.

## Howe Budget warning from Europe

Amid growing concern in the West over continuing economic recession and mounting unemployment the European Commission has given a clear warning to Britain not to adopt a restrictive Budget next week. And in Paris labour ministers from the leading industrial nations began two days of talks on tackling unemployment in their countries.

In a review of the EEC economy the Commission said that there should be no restrictive budget policy action in 1982 in any member state whose finances were relatively sound. Figures show that Britain ended 1981 with a current account balance of payments surplus equivalent to 2.2 per cent of gross domestic product, and the second lowest net borrowing requirement in the EEC of only 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product.

The Commission's advice would appear to be directed specifically at Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Commission takes a guarded view of economic prospects in the Community. It has revised downwards its economic growth forecast for 1982 to 1.6 per cent of real community from the 2 per cent level predicted last autumn although it believes that by the end of 1982 growth could reach a 2.5 per cent annual rate.

EEC unemployment which rose by 180,000 people a month last year is expected to rise to 9.1 per cent of the labour force in 1982 against 7.9 per cent in 1981. Economic growth in Britain will stay below the EEC average this year with GDP rising by 1.1 per cent after last year's 1.4 per cent decline. United Kingdom unemployment will continue to rise to 11.8 per cent from the 10.5 per cent level for 1981.

The commission considers that the present phase of recovery in the European economy is fragile and that the cyclical trend could be aborted by a deterioration in world monetary conditions. It said that one of the prerequisites of an effective European Economic Policy is that countries with strong balance of payments positions do not pursue "so prudent financial policies" as to impede recovery in those countries with high deficits.

The Paris discussions, involving the 24 member states of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), gear against a backdrop of sharp political differences as exemplified by France and the United States.

France is pursuing an expansionary course to bring down unemployment while the United States regards the deficit of inflation through a restrictive monetary policy.

According to latest comparable figures prepared by the OECD, for Europe and North America, Britain's unemployment rate now heads the list at 11.7 per cent, with the Netherlands at 11.2 per cent, Belgium 10.9 per cent, Italy 9.1 per cent, the United States 8.5 per cent, Canada 8.3 per cent and West Germany 3.2 per cent.

## Joint UK satellite set up

By Bill Johnstone Electronics Correspondent

A new British company is to be formed to exploit the world market for satellites. The company, called United Satellite Ltd, is being set up jointly by British Telecom, Marconi and British Aerospace.

The announcement by the three partners comes in the wake of the Government's approval for a £150m direct broadcast satellite system to be built by the British companies and to be operational by 1986.

The partners are expected to have an equal stake in the company, although the methods of financing the group have yet to be determined.

N. M. Rothschild, the merchant bank, is investigating the possibility of some form of leasing being used to fund the Britishe.

The companies have already investigated potential markets and the technical and operational means to meet broadcasting and telecommunications requirements.



The preliminary work has involved liaison with government departments and a broad range of telecommunications organisations. The footprint for the British satellite would take in part of Western Europe for broadcasting signals if a sufficient large antenna were used for reception.

One third of the British direct broadcasting satellite will be devoted to broadcasting and the remainder to telecommunications.

The RBC will be given two channels and British Telecom will control the third. British Telecom intends to release its international circuits on the satellite to other satellite organisations.

The complete system will consist of three satellites.

## Industrial loans practices misunderstood Banks refute Lever arguments

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The big clearing banks have rounded on critics who claim that the cause of Britain's economic problems can be laid at the door of the banks because of their failure to meet industry's needs.

Much recent criticism of bank lending practices is based on out-of-date, misunderstood or simply wrong evidence, according to a paper produced by economists at the Committee of London Clearing Banks (CLCB) and endorsed by the big banks. In the paper, Bank Lending and Industrial Investment, they refute charges that the banks lend much less to industry than in other countries or that bank lending to industry is much shorter term in the United Kingdom.

The paper attacks many of the arguments and international comparisons put forward by Lord Lever for former chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Mr George Edwards, an economist, in articles critical of British banking, and also seeks to

## 'Crisis' in US savings industry

From Bailey Morris Washington, March 4

The United States savings industry, alarmed by reports that as many as 1,000 thrift institutions could go under in the coming year, has asked the Reagan Administration to approve a massive \$10,000m bail-out programme for marginal institutions.

Warning of "imminent crisis," two associations representing more than 80 per cent of America's thrift institutions proposed a three-year aid programme to pump money into institutions and stimulate the housing market.

"We can no longer wait for interest rates to fall," Mr Roy G. Green, chairman of the United States League of Savings Associations said. The League has supported the National Association of Mutual Savings Banks aid package.

If approved, the plan would rank as the largest Federal bail-out in modern times.

The Reagan administration has said repeatedly that it does not favour Federal aid to corporations, preferring instead to let market forces prevail.

This has been reiterated by both White House and Treasury officials. "This Administration strongly opposes any plan to bail out the ailing savings industry," Mr Shannon Fairbanks, White House adviser on housing issues, said.

Still, the savings industry, which had a combined operating loss of more than \$2,000m last year, has considerable political support and could force the Administration into a compromise position.

Democrats on the House Banking Committee, for example, have already unveiled their own \$16,000m housing aid programme which includes support for thrift institutions.

## Banks could cut lending rates again

By John Whitmore

overdraft finance, suggests the banks may see scope for more than the usual half point drop in base rates. A certain amount may yet depend on dollar interest rates. This week has seen mixed movements in Euro-dollar interest rates and several Wall Street houses have raised their broker loan rates.

However, the market is looking for a significant fall in the weekly United States money supply, to be released later today.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve, told the Senate appropriations committee that the United States was turning the corner on inflation and that interest rates had nowhere to go but down.

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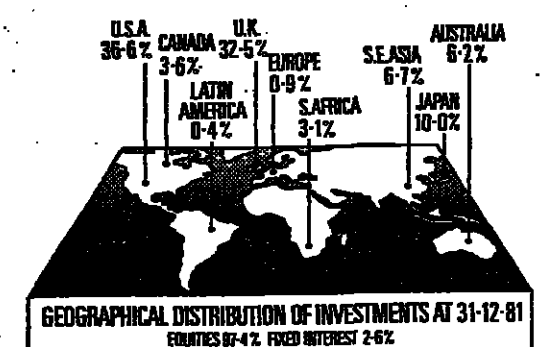
Mr Paul Volcker



# Scottish United Investors

## Summary of the year

|                 | 1981         | 1980         |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Assets    | £133,164,898 | £130,421,687 |
| Net Assets      | 122,953,954  | 115,848,227  |
| Net Asset Value | 73.9p        | 69.7p        |
| Gross Revenue   | 6,482,238    | 5,919,494    |
| Net Revenue     | 2,639,493    | 2,509,803    |
| Dividend        | 1.60p        | 1.53p        |



## PRINCIPALLY INVESTED OVERSEAS

Copies of the Accounts available from: SCOTTISH UNITED INVESTORS plc, 37 RENFIELD STREET, GLASGOW G2 1JU

## M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

## The Over-the-Counter Market

| 1981/82 | High | Low  | Company            | Price | Chgs | Gross | Yld  | P/E  | Div  |
|---------|------|------|--------------------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| 125     | 100  | 98   | Ass Brit Ind CULS  | 125   | -    | 10.0  | 8.0  | 15.8 | —    |
| 6       | 2076 | 2076 | Airprng Group      | 72    | +1   | 4.7   | 6.5  | 11.4 | 15.8 |
| 51      | 33   | 33   | Armitage & Rhodes  | 45    | -    | 4.3   | 9.6  | 8.5  | —    |
| 205     | 187  | 187  | Bardon Hill        | 198   | -    | 9.7   | 4.4  | 9.6  | 11.7 |
| 105     | 100  | 100  | CCL 11% Conv Pref  | 105   | +2   | 15.7  | 15.0 | —    | —    |
| 104     | 67   | 67   | Deborah Services   | 67    | -    | 6.0   | 9.0  | 3.3  | 6.3  |
| 131     | 97   | 97   | Frank Horsell      | 130   | -    | 6.4   | 4.9  | 11.7 | 24.1 |
| 83      | 39   | 39   | Frederick Parker   | 81    | -    | 6.4   | 7.9  | 4.1  | 7.9  |
| 78      | 46   | 46   | George Blair       | 52    | -    | —     | —    | —    | —    |
| 102     | 93   | 93   | Ind Prof Castings  | 95    | -    | 7.3   | 7.7  | 6.8  | 10.3 |
| 108     | 100  | 100  | Isis Conv Pref     | 106   | -    | 7.0   | 7.3  | 3.0  | 6.8  |
| 113     | 94   | 94   | Jackson Group      | 112   | -    | 8.7   | 7.8  | 8.2  | 10.3 |
| 130     | 106  | 106  | James Burrough     | 112   | -    | 8.7   | 7.8  | 8.2  | 10.3 |
| 334     | 248  | 248  | Robert Jenkins     | 250   | +2   | 31.3  | 12.5 | 3.5  | 8.8  |
| 61      | 51   | 51   | Scruttons "A"      | 61    | -    | 5.3   | 8.7  | 9.4  | 8.7  |
| 222     | 159  | 159  | Torday & Carlisle  | 159   | -    | 10.7  | 6.7  | 5.1  | 9.5  |
| 15      | 10   | 10   | Twinklford Ord     | 13%   | -    | —     | —    | —    | —    |
| 80      | 66   | 66   | Twinklford 15% ULS | 78    | -    | 15.0  | 19.2 | —    | —    |
| 44      | 25   | 25   | Unilock Holdings   | 75    | -    | 3.0   | 12.0 | 4.5  | 7.6  |
| 103     | 73   | 73   | Walter Alexander   | 77    | -    | 6.4   | 8.3  | 5.1  | 9.0  |
| 263     | 212  | 212  | W. S. Yeates       | 226   | -    | 13.1  | 5.8  | 4.3  | 8.7  |

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

## BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

# Wondering about Woolworth... oil cheers

## Talking shop with men from the City

Woolworths has invited City analysts to come in and talk about its profits next week (Sally White writes).

This may not, on the surface, be a remarkable event. But given facts that the profits are expected to slump heavily, and that for months now the shares have been bought only because they stand at a third of the historic assets, it is thought that Woolworths might just have some good news to impart.

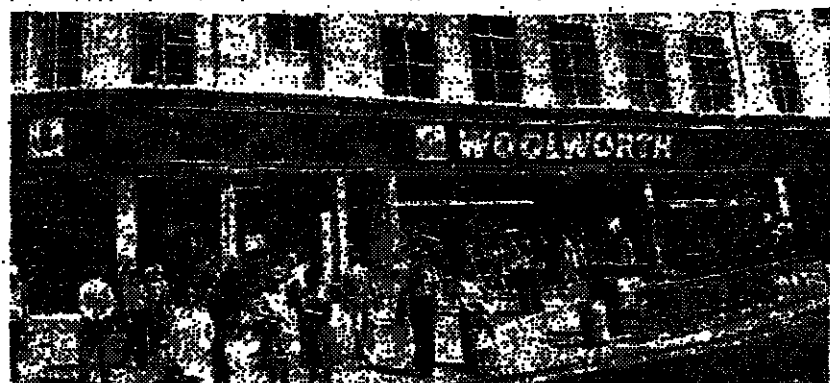
Estimates of the pretax figures from Woolworths for the full year range from £23m to £30m. Most of the analysts are bunched around the £26m to £28m level.

At about the £28m the earnings per share are about 3.5 on a full tax basis. The yield is about 12 per cent. In spite of aggressive marketing, with cuts in prices to try to pull in customers, the long awaited recovery in Woolworths' retail sales was still failing to appear.

Mr Geoffrey Rodgers, the chairman, has been encouraging the development of a whole host of new ideas. DIY has received the most publicity. But the "Wonder of Woolworths" promotional line has not so far materialized in hard figures.

So the trading and profit performance to be revealed by Woolworths next week is awaited with interest. The group has not been over-generous with information about itself over the past few months. There have been such worrying changes as the demoting of the credit rating of the parent group in the United States.

Most of the news that we have been following is the trail of announcements of the shops that they have been selling off, said one



Still looking for recovery in the High Street

of the analysts. "What we want to know is how much they have raised in the last few months. It is not only to see how much is left. But most important is the retailing performance. If they have failed to meet expectations again, then we will be back to scrutinising the property portfolio."

Historic assets stand at 152p a share, and on a current-cost basis, 205p. Closing price today was 55p. Woolworths is undoubtedly a superb property portfolio. The bulk of the shops are freehold properties, and they are scattered around the most important shopping centres of the country.

Curiously, brokers report more private client buyers of the stock as a property speculation than institutions have long been state bulls, and do not want to extend their risks.

There has been no sign of any buyer. The United States parent is, of course, the key to the company's position — it owns 53 per cent of Woolworths in this country.

The share price has been very stable recently at the mid-50s. That compares with 1981/82 high of 73p, and a low of 41p. But several large holders are expected to sell into any rally — until the chance of a bid becomes more substantial.

## MERCANTILE

### Limited recovery

Mercantile Credit, the Barclay's Bank finance house, boosted pretax profit 37 per cent to £52m from £38m for the year to December 1981.

Tax relief for the year was up from £76m to £111m, to give a post tax profit of £163m against £114m last time. Minorities were £1.12m against £1.16m, and dividends absorbed £146m against

## MINING

### Operations slow down

Mitchell Cotts, which earns almost three quarters of its profits in South Africa, warned shareholders yesterday that its mining operations were beginning to feel the effect of an increasing slow-down in work.

It says predicting profits for the year to June has become difficult as a result, although, some companies could have so far performed reasonably well.

## RENTOKIL

### Record profits

Killing pests, preserving wood and industrial hygiene gave Rentokil a record level of pretax profits, up 11 per cent to £14.2m, in the year to December.

The group says it could have carried out more work in preserving timber but had difficulty finding one of the main products used — a by-product from copper mining.

## General Mining

### Union Corporation Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED RESULTS 1981

Earnings per share increased by 17%  
Dividends per share increased by 17%

## Allied to a weak pound

Allied Colloids, the Bradford-based specialist chemicals producer is one company which will welcome the drop in North Sea oil prices and any consequent weakening of sterling (Drew Johnston writes). For not only does it export four-fifths of its output, but its raw materials are also derived from oil-based products.

These factors are partly responsible for taking the shares to 186p, which is a high for the year. Allied is vulnerable to a strong sterling/dollar exchange rate, but has been making the most of the present circumstances. For the six months to October 1981, pretax profits were £4m. In the previous full year the profit was only £4.04m. (Some analysts are now forecasting profit of £9m for the year to March, on a fully-taxed rating of 17.8).

For the following year, analysts at De Zoete & Bevan, the stockbrokers are looking for a further profits improvement to about £11.5m. Allied supplies its high technology chemical products to the mining, textiles and oil industries. Early this year it announced it had bought 70 acres of land in Suffolk, Virginia, United States of America, to build a manufacturing plant. The City approved of the location because Allied already conducts a lot of its business in the United States and knows the market well.

Likely, under the company's cost-cutting operation over the last few years and the expectation of higher dividends also helped the share price to rise.

The dividend could rise by between 15 and 20 per cent to an estimated 4.6p gross, giving a gross dividend yield of 2.6 per cent.

There is some speculation that the shares have strengthened on the possibility of a takeover bid.

In 1979 the shares were suspended after an approach from an American company, believed to have been Merck.

The latest speculation points to a possible bid from Burmah, the oil company.

## INTERNATIONAL



## JAPAN

The Japanese Government and the car industry have not decided on the ceiling for car exports to the United States in the 1982 fiscal year, according to International Trade Ministry officials in Tokyo.

A spokesman for the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said the private industrial organisation did not know when a self-restraint limit, yet to be calculated, would be announced.

Hitachi of Japan said yesterday it had developed a copper-carbon material for semiconductors that would replace expensive materials such as tungsten and molybdenum used in the silicon chip computer memory device.

Four Japanese groups have been jointly awarded a \$400m (216.8m) order by Indonesia's state oil company, Pertamina, for a petrochemical plant and equipment.

## CHINA

Swindlers who made huge profits by selling fake American shares have been arrested in Peking. The Workers Daily said the gang hit on the idea of selling the shares after reading that frozen United States assets in China would be released under an agreement reached in 1979. Customers were told they would receive up to \$550,000 in dividends if they bought enough shares.

## AUSTRALIA

A Japanese textile company paid a world record price for a bale of wool at an Australian wool sale yesterday. The price of 12,500 cents (£17.40) a kilo for the superfine merino fleece wool was way above the previous record of 4,600 cents set by the same company, Fujii Keori of Osaka, in 1973.

The need to hold down wage increases will slow Australia's economic growth, says the Commonwealth Banking Corporation. Australia's inflation rate is increasing, and measures to hold down wages will restrict growth for the rest of 1982 and "some time beyond", the Commonwealth forecast.

## UNITED STATES

The United States should increase strategic stocks of grain and petrol to help stabilize prices and hold down inflation, according to the Brookings Institution, an independent research organization.

Orders booked by United States industry declined 1.2 per cent in January, following the December drop of 0.3 per cent. Stocks held by industry in January fell 0.4 per cent.

## FRANCE

Electricity prices go up 10 per cent and gas prices up seven per cent in France today. Domestic heating oil and diesel oil go up marginally, but petrol is reduced by five centimes.

## WEST GERMANY

Otto Lambsdorff, Economics Minister, is confident that West Germany's gross national product will grow a real or price adjusted 1.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent this year. The real GNP declined 0.3 per cent in 1981. The minister said that the seasonally unadjusted jobless rate would average around 7 per cent and that the consumer price rise would be limited to 5 per cent on average.

## Notice of Redemption

# International Standard Electric Corporation

## 9% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1970 between International Standard Electric Corporation and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Trustee, \$1,463,000 in aggregate principal amount of the above-captioned Debentures will be redeemed for the sinking fund on April 1, 1982 at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to April 1, 1982.

The numbers of the Debentures to be redeemed are as follows:

|     |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 4   | 2043 | 3387 | 4658 | 5519 | 7044 | 8277 | 9485  | 10700 | 12337 | 14357 | 16783 | 18296 | 19750 | 21342 | 22365 | 23822 | 25835 | 26981 | 28177 |
| 6   | 2076 | 3393 | 4664 | 5528 | 7049 | 8282 | 9490  | 10710 | 12347 | 14367 | 16793 | 18306 | 19760 | 21352 | 22375 | 23832 | 25845 | 27001 | 28197 |
| 10  | 2102 | 3414 | 4668 | 5532 | 7053 | 8286 | 9494  | 10714 | 12351 | 14371 | 16797 | 18310 | 19764 | 21356 | 22379 | 23836 | 25849 | 27005 | 28201 |
| 49  | 2121 | 3456 | 4674 | 5540 | 7059 | 8292 | 9500  | 10720 | 12358 | 14381 | 16807 | 18320 | 19774 | 21366 | 22389 | 23846 | 25859 | 27015 | 28211 |
| 345 | 2151 | 3477 | 4710 | 5567 | 7101 | 8334 | 9542  | 10752 | 12387 | 14407 | 16833 | 18346 | 19790 | 21382 | 22405 | 23862 | 25875 | 27031 | 28227 |
| 353 | 2186 | 3475 | 4715 | 5577 | 7110 | 8347 | 9554  | 10764 | 12400 | 14419 | 16845 | 18358 | 19802 | 21394 | 22417 | 23874 | 25887 | 27043 | 28239 |
| 481 | 2199 | 3506 | 4719 | 5588 | 7119 | 8359 | 9567  | 10774 | 12412 | 14431 | 16857 | 18370 | 19814 | 21406 | 22429 | 23886 | 25899 | 27055 | 28241 |
| 511 | 2211 | 3521 | 4723 | 5594 | 7133 | 8369 | 9576  | 10784 | 12424 | 14443 | 16869 | 18382 | 19826 | 21418 | 22441 | 23898 | 25911 | 27067 | 28253 |
| 512 | 2251 | 3543 | 4735 | 5673 | 7231 | 8389 | 9590  | 10794 | 12436 | 14455 | 16881 | 18394 | 19838 | 21430 | 22453 | 23910 | 25923 | 27079 | 28265 |
| 514 | 2252 | 3544 | 4736 | 5685 | 7234 | 8390 | 9591  | 10795 | 12437 | 14456 | 16882 | 18395 | 19839 | 21431 | 22454 | 23911 | 25924 | 27080 | 28266 |
| 518 | 2251 | 3543 | 4735 | 5686 | 7235 | 8391 | 9592  | 10796 | 12438 | 14457 | 16883 | 18396 | 19840 | 21432 | 22455 | 23912 | 25925 | 27081 | 28267 |
| 525 | 2253 | 3551 | 4749 | 5688 | 7236 | 8392 | 9593  | 10797 | 12439 | 14458 | 16884 | 18397 | 19841 | 21433 | 22456 | 23913 | 25926 | 27082 | 28268 |
| 783 | 2348 | 3581 | 4747 | 5689 | 7238 | 8496 | 9820  | 10947 | 12630 | 14887 | 17111 | 18601 | 20222 | 21469 | 22663 | 24195 | 25818 | 27233 | 29431 |
| 800 | 2374 | 3601 | 4747 | 5690 | 7237 | 8495 | 9815  | 10936 | 12622 | 14882 | 17112 | 18602 | 20223 | 21470 | 22664 | 24196 | 25819 | 27234 | 29432 |
| 801 | 2377 | 3566 | 4748 | 5703 | 7328 | 8533 | 9938  | 10962 | 12653 | 15006 | 17314 | 18510 | 20234 | 21470 | 22698 | 24222 | 25839 | 27238 | 29418 |
| 806 | 2386 | 3565 | 4796 | 5711 | 7395 | 8533 | 10063 | 10963 | 12660 | 15299 | 17338 | 18512 | 20240 | 21508 | 22730 | 24230 | 25849 | 27243 | 29423 |
| 810 | 2385 | 3566 | 4796 | 5711 | 7395 | 8533 | 10063 | 10963 | 12660 | 15299 | 17338 | 18512 | 20240 | 21508 | 22730 | 24230 | 25849 | 27243 | 29423 |
| 817 | 2401 | 3803 | 4806 | 5720 | 7398 | 8545 | 10011 | 11008 | 12721 | 15231 | 17271 | 18515 | 20245 | 21549 | 22789 | 24239 | 25858 | 27244 | 29433 |
| 824 | 2432 | 3612 | 4808 | 5729 | 7472 | 8547 | 10014 | 11011 | 12725 | 15239 | 17278 | 18522 | 20252 | 21555 | 22793 | 24241 | 25867 | 27246 | 29440 |
| 828 | 2438 | 3612 | 4808 | 5731 | 7471 | 8547 | 10014 | 11011 | 12725 | 15239 | 17278 | 18522 | 20252 | 21555 | 22793 | 24241 | 25867 | 27246 | 29440 |
| 845 | 2468 | 3612 | 4850 | 5803 | 7579 | 8587 | 10022 | 11028 | 12748 | 15304 | 17305 | 18558 | 20263 | 21584 | 22847 | 24448 | 25912 | 27242 | 29443 |
| 846 | 2468 | 3612 | 4850 | 5803 | 7579 | 8587 | 10022 | 11028 | 12748 | 15304 | 17305 | 18558 | 20263 | 21584 | 22847 | 24448 | 25912 | 27242 | 29443 |
| 851 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 857 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 858 | 2468 | 3732 | 4904 | 5691 | 7601 | 8591 | 9600  | 10603 | 11284 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |
| 861 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 862 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 863 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 864 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 865 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 866 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 867 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 868 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 869 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 870 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 871 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 872 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 873 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 874 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 875 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 876 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 877 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 878 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 879 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 880 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 881 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 882 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 883 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 884 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 885 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 886 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 887 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 888 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 889 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 890 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 891 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 892 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 893 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 894 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 895 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 896 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 897 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 898 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 899 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 900 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 21074 | 22723 | 24372 | 26021 | 27670 | 29319 |       |
| 901 | 2470 | 3738 | 4922 | 5711 | 7633 | 8609 | 9643  | 11124 | 12878 | 15327 | 17876 | 19425 | 2     |       |       |       |       |       |       |



## PEOPLE

## Lloyd has new man of steel

Forward, discreet, accountant, Mr Lewis Robertson is the new chairman of F. H. Lloyd, the steelmaker. Outwardly Lloyd has got on rather well without a Supreme since the turbulence of last August when Mr Ronald Middleton the chairman decided to take office and Mr Robert Foster the former incumbent decided to stay on after planning to resign.

Key to this strange sequence was Cooper Industries which seemed to succeed with a boardroom coup on the basis of a 29 per cent shareholding which still stands. The investment protection committee of the British Insurance Association started, however, to throw its weight about not only Lloyd's but effectively to spoil Cooper's game and with the help of headquarters has now discovered Robertson, 59, who tells me: "there is nothing organically wrong with Lloyd; it needs several months of calming down."



Mr Lewis Robertson

Ahaji M T Bature, managing director of Nigeria Airways, is also a civil servant and a barrister. Surprisingly, perhaps he wants to see Nigeria Airways back in private hands. "We are in a very bad shape and slowing down all our projects," he said. "I would like to go private but I think I would still like to be in the Nigerian Government have a say in the airline." It could be a private company within three years, he thinks, and once the loans are converted into equity, the airline could have capital of £200m instead of the current overdraft of £10m.



It's the new Government health warning. It says: "Non-smoking is bad for revenue."

## J. R. hampered, not harassed

An eventful first visit to London this week for Dr Jacques Rouquié. He is the president of the tourist committee of Lot, a department in France west of Bordeaux and north of Toulouse where the foie gras comes from. He led a crowd of Lot hoteliers and restaurateurs who were to be hosts at a lunch to launch the publication in this country of the *Legis de France* hotel guide.

With the delegation was supposed to arrive, a hamper of Lot specialties, foie gras, truffles and fillet of smoked goose — but alas British Airways said, the hamper was still in Paris — or somewhere.

Luckily BA managed to find and fly over the hamper just in time for lunch — whereupon one of the guests said: "Er, I'm a vegetarian."

Dr Rouquié shrugged and said in French: "All's well that ends well," and got on with the first course, a walnut salad.

It will be fizzy drinks from vending machines round every corner soon if The Can Makers have their way. It is a trade organization set up by the big can makers partly as a defence in the battle with glass and plastic bottles, as chairman John Preston admits. Preston, sales and marketing director of American Can (UK), yesterday launched a £100,000 scheme to persuade on a 50-50 cost basis the fillers of cans to flood Britain with fizzy drink vending machines. We have only about 1,000 at present.

Peter Wainwright

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Leslie Carpenter, chief executive of the publishing and printing product area, has been appointed to the post of chief executive of Reed International from October 1, 1982. Sir Alex Jarratt will continue as chairman of Reed International until 1985.

## Amersham affair — how much are the City experts really worth?

Mr Michael Richardson of N. Rothschild & Son is said to be close to the Prime Minister. It is ironic, therefore, that he should be at the centre of the storm over the privatization of Amersham. International which makes radio-active isotopes. Mr Richardson, head of corporate finance at Rothschild, is blamed on all sides for pricing Amersham too low and thereby depriving the Exchequer of £25m, or, in 'bricks and mortar' terms, a couple of houses.

The Amersham affair has damaged not only the reputation of Rothschild, but of the City generally. Predictably, Labour MPs have described the affair in terms of yet more City profiteering at the expense of the taxpayer. These in the know make money, those outside the charmed circle lose out. Following on the heels of the privatization of British Aerospace last spring and Cable and Wireless in the autumn, the charge is that the Government has not only pursued its ideological aim of transferring public assets to the private sector, but in so doing, has made a great deal of money for its friends in the City.

But it is not only left-wing politicians who are angry. Those who have watched in anger or bewilderment as the speculators rush to make a sure-fire killing.

Industrialists, suffering the worst recession in 50 years and forced to close many factories, are scathing in private at what they regard as the City's easy money-making machine.

Amersham, offered for sale at 142p, rose to 192p within two days, giving the stage a varying degree of good fortune.

It is not just the large premiums achieved on Amersham, and the two earlier privatizations which have angered the men at the sharp end. The age-old suspicion of those who make money from money instead of things, rose up once more when it was learned that the total cost of the £71m Amersham issue was £25m. Broken down, Rothschild, acting as merchant bank adviser to the Department of Energy, and Morgan Grenfell, acting for the company, picked up £310,000 between them. The stockbrokers and underwriters made £844,000. National Westminster, which was basically a clearing house for the application forms, collected £500,000, while the Government's stamp duty took £750,000.

"We live in two completely different worlds," the deputy

managing director of one of Britain's largest multi-nationals says.

"We have subsidiaries employing high powered managers engaged in the newest technology, which do not earn £310,000 a year. The bankers fee for Amersham."

"The Government, or anyone else, should not pay for had advice."

"The City should adopt the same values as the private manufacturing sector. That is to provide value for money."

These senior industrialists believe that the fees of merchant banks and stockbrokers should be published and should be in the case of takeovers, be taken off the final price paid by the bidding company.

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The rush is on as Amersham goes up for sale

more or less standard fee for both offers for sale and rights issues. The underwriter, usually the merchant bank handling the issue, will pay the sub-underwriters, (those who guarantee to pick up any shares not taken up by the investing public) a fee totalling 1 1/4 per cent of the issue. The merchant bank itself would normally receive 1/2 per cent while the stockbrokers fee would be 1/4 per cent.

Expressed in fractions, these seem relatively small sums. But they are substantial when BP is raising £24m or the Government is seeking £224m from the public for the sale of a majority stake in Cable & Wireless and £150m from the British Aerospace offer.

Mr Tim Barker of Kleinwort Benson, who handled the BA and Cable & Wireless issues, defends the fees charged.

Kleinwort charged the Government an amount in both cases which was rather less than would be payable in a conventional issue. Mr Barker points out that this fee of 1/4 per cent was split between four banks in the case of BA and three in the Cable & Wireless offer.

| Company                | Merchant bank                    | Value of offer | Total cost |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| British Aerospace      | Kleinwort, Benson                | £150m          | £3.6m      |
| Cable & Wireless       | Kleinwort, Benson                | £224m          | £3.9m      |
| Amersham International | N M Rothschild, Morgan, Grenfell | £271m          | £2.6m      |

\*Includes underwriting fees plus fees payable to merchant bank, stockbroker, legal expenses and cost of prospectus.

## The multi-million pound connection

## TECHNOLOGY OFFICE OF THE FUTURE

By Clive Cookson

strategy. Xerox wants Ethernet to become the industry's standard for linking electronic equipment in an office. It has published all the network's specifications and any company can make Ethernet components without paying royalties (the only licensing fee is a nominal \$1,000 which Xerox says covers the costs of distributing the specifications).

Datapoint, in contrast, has kept Arc firmly in its own grasp as a closed, proprietary network. Arc's technical details are unpublished, and so far it has been licensed only to Tandem, the big American microcomputer manufacturer. A company opting for Arc commits itself to Datapoint office products while an Ethernet customer can buy equipment from a variety of competing suppliers.

According to Mr William Lynch, technical planning manager in Xerox's office products division, 22 manufacturers have publicly declared their intention to make components and products compatible with Ethernet; the most recent company to sign up was Siemens, the West German electronics giant, last week. Ethernet-compatible workstations or terminals.

Technically, Ethernet and Arc are both "bus" networks, which use open-ended

station detects the collision, waits for a random interval and tries to send the message again.

In practice, since Ethernet can carry up to 10 million bits of data per second (equivalent to the contents of two full-length books), any message will arrive virtually instantaneously. When Digital Equipment Corporation studied Ethernet, it found that up to 2,000 active users could be attached to a single network before waiting times became significant (more than 1,000th of a second).

Although Ethernet's opponents have raised many technical arguments against the network — which are dismissed by Xerox as "myths" — the objection taken most seriously in the business equipment industry is that Ethernet is a baseband network. This means that it has just one channel: only one stream of signals can travel along the cable.

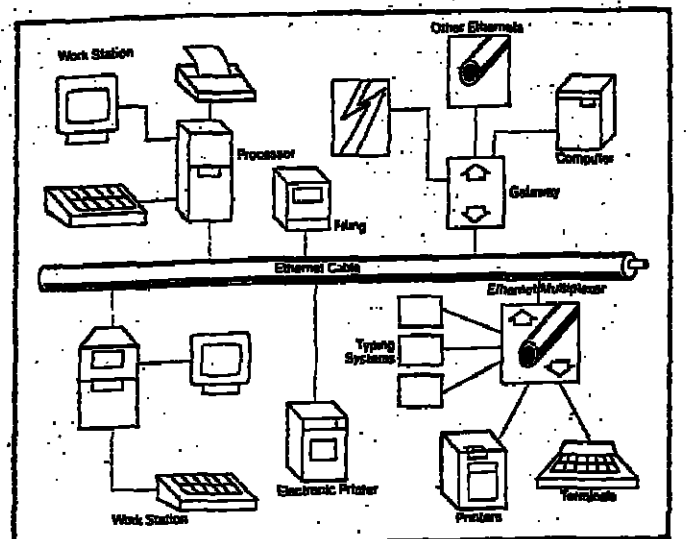
A baseband network does not have enough capacity to carry several channels of voice and video communications, as well as heavy volumes of computer data and electronic messages. A broadband network with a cable carrying several channels — like the Wangnet being developed by Wang — is needed to intergrade office telephone and videoconferencing with data communications.

Xerox and other Ethernet proponents claim that the objection is irrelevant, at least for the next decade, because it will be simpler and more cost-effective to install separate telephone and video systems rather than try to combine everything in a single network.

A broadband network is considerably more expensive than baseband. Connection costs are trebled because the complex electronics needed to sort out communications on the various channels.

Arc has also started life as a baseband network. But Mr Victor Poor, Datapoint executive vice-president for research and development, says it can easily be upgraded to broadband, unlike Ethernet.

"Everyone who is promoting local area networks says their system is compatible with broadband, except Ethernet," says Mr Poor. "I think that's the Achilles heel of the system. It is my conviction that the broadband system is the only serious candidate for the long term."



The Xerox Ethernet cable connects a wide variety of "intelligent" office machines, allowing them to work together and exchange information as a single system.

## Business Editor

## The banks reply to their critics

When attacked, produce a weighty document with which to hit your critics over the head — in whatever sense you choose. That, anyway, is what the clearing banks have done in reply to what they consider to be ill-founded criticisms of their role as providers of funds to United Kingdom industry.

One might, perhaps, add that the banks have taken their time in responding: fully to an argument that has been rumbling on for several years now, not to mention the fact that they have not helped themselves in the past by providing so little maturity analysis of their loan books.

But some at least of the argument is of the boiling the stable door after the horse has bolted variety. There is no doubt that the banks have changed their attitudes and practices quite considerably over recent years, partly in response to criticism, partly in response to the increased competitive pressures within the banking system itself.

What is of key importance at the moment is that industry gets all the help it needs to make itself off the floor, and that the banks (as well as the Chancellor) are seen to be playing their part.

That may or may not mean the introduction of the Gyllis scheme (on some variation for net interest payments by industry, a scheme about which some banks are more enthusiastic than others. It will almost certainly mean that the banks will have to watch the balance of their personal and industrial lending as the economy recovers.

It may also mean that the monetary authorities will have to take a fresh look at the ever expanding role of the banks as the major financial intermediaries, first, from the viewpoint of seeking ways to neutralize the monetary impact; and secondly from the prudential desirability of seeing the ratio of public sector assets in bank balance sheets steadily evaporating.

## Markets

## Opposing views

We now appear to have some diametrically opposed views of the world in London and Wall Street. Over here, the slump in oil prices is seen as a sign of hope, promising lower inflation and a stimulus to

recovery. In the States, the fall in the oil prices seems to be taken as just another sign of deepening world recession — with depressing increasingly replacing recession in newspaper headlines.

As far as the stock market goes, the position is not being helped by stock sales to raise cash for margin calls on plummeting oil stocks. Meanwhile, few people are prepared to predict a floor for the gold price until something happens to mark the end of high real interest rates in America.

## Zero-coupons

## Japan acts

Sportsmen at the Japanese Finance Ministry have been threatening to run the fun for the Eurobond market's latest fad, zero-coupon bonds, ever since this sector took off in mid-January. Japanese investors have had a voracious appetite for these issues.

Against some expectations that the tax laws would be changed to reduce the attractions in such issues, a typical Japanese play has been used with local brokers now being "instructed" not to sell them to local residents. With more than \$7,000m zero-coupon issues in the last couple of months, the Japanese authorities are disturbed at the effect on their own capital market and more especially on what such inflows would do to the yen.

Rumours of such an informal ban sent the market into a spin on Wednesday as Japanese brokers' houses with big inventories swamped the market. Dealers, however, were amazed at how well the market recovered yesterday as buyers came out of the woodwork in Europe.

There is a technical explanation for this in that most zero-coupon issues were looking overvalued in any case and have now become more attractive after this week's sharp falls. But the real reason is simply that investors still like the look of the capital gearing at a time of reducing interest rates, while with little of the maintenance costs involved in coupon clipping and so on in straight issues, zero-coupons are a lazy way of handling a Eurobond portfolio. Nothing really changes in the Eurobond business.

## SKF

## Financial statement, 1981

SKF Group income for the year ending 31 Dec 1981 was 805 million Swedish kronor (MSkr) before exchange differences. Net sales for the Group rose 8.5 per cent.

|   | Jan-Dec 1981 | Jan-Dec 1980 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Sales (MSkr)                                | 13,570       | 12,512       |
| Operating income before depreciation (MSkr) | 1,719        | 1,847        |
| Income before exchange differences (MSkr)   | 805          | 953          |
| Capital expenditure (MSkr)                  | 622          | 492          |
| Average number of employees                 | 50,452       | 53,026       |

The rolling bearing sector continued to improve, with a profit of 851 million kronor (829 MSkr in 1980). On the other hand the steel division, facing price concessions due to an over-saturated market, showed a loss of 119 million kronor as opposed to its 1980 profit of 20 million.

Prospects of developing SKF 1982 activities favourably are considered good, the degree of change also depending on when exactly the economic upturn occurs.

## Dividends and capitalisation

The Board and Managing Director recommend an unchanged dividend of 7 kronor for A and B shares, and 12 kronor per C share, as well as a 75th Anniversary bonus of one krona for each A and B share. In all, 187 million kronor.

The Board will also recommend shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to raise the Company's share capital to 1350 million kronor by increasing the book value of SKF's shareholding in Krängede AB by 270 million kronor, and issuing capitalisation shares whereby shareholders will receive one new share for every four of the same kind held.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 28 May.

Aktiebolaget SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden.



**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
**BELL'S**

## Stock Exchange Prices

# Gilts surge ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, March 1. Dealings End, March 12. \$ Contango Day, March 15. Settlement Day, March 22.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]



















## Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

## BBC 1

6.40 Open University. Eileen Barker Meets the Moonbeams. 7.05 Ontario. 7.30 History of Maths. 8.00 For Schools. Colleges: Biology. Play Tennis. 8.25 Look and Read (8.52). Religious, moral education. 10.15 Exploring Science (10.58). Hymn (11.00). Talkabout (11.22). Going to Work (11.40). Plants in Action (12.05). 12.30 News. Afternoon. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Includes Peter Seabrook's weekly gardening item, and the Living with Leisure item (how to make the best use of your spare time, if any). 1.45 Bagpuss. 2.02 For Schools. Colleges: Scene After the Goldrush. At 2.30, A Good Job with Prospects (the interview). 3.00 Closeaway. 3.20 Pabot v Conn (for which viewers). 3.55 Play School. Mary Dawson's story. 4.00 March Hare Handicap. Race. Commentary: Julian Wilson. John Hamner.

4.30 Captain Caveman cartoon. 4.30 Jackanory. Bernard Holler reads the final part of Joan Eadington's Jonny Briggs and the Giant Cave. 4.45 Finders Keepers: Battleships game, between Colneis County Junior School and Harestock County Junior School. The referee is Richard Stilloa.

5.10 Grange Hill. Final episode. The end of term examination. 5.35 Four the Engine (7).

5.40 News. With Richard Baker. 6.00 South East at Six. 6.22 Blackadder. The first of a series of films about the working of the House of Lords. Peers are interviewed (See Choice). 6.45 Sportsworld, with Desmond Lynam.

7.00 Film: Mister Moses (1985). Wildlife adventure drama, shot in the Amazon. Game reserve in Kenya. Robert Mitchell plays the quack doctor whose aid is enlisted by some villagers when they fear that their village is to be flooded. He helps to lead their animals to safety. Co-starring Carroll Baker and Ian Bannen.

8.50 Points of View. Barry Took comments on viewers' praise and scorn.

9.00 News. The reader is John Simpson. Also the week's weather prospects.

9.25 McClain's Law. Crime thriller series, with James Arness and Marshall-Copitt as the two police chiefs. Tonight: a cap is freed thanks to a smart lawyer. (Arness) finds himself facing a charge of brutality.

10.15 The Ian Woodbridge Interview. The journalist and broadcaster talks to Jeffrey Archer whose business life has tumbled all round him seven years ago. Now, the former MP is a writer of best-selling books.

10.45 News headlines. And weather forecast.

11.50 The Best in the Ballroom. This presentation of the Carl-Alan Awards at the London Lyceum. Demonstrations by some of the world's leading dancers. Ray Moore is the MC, and the entertainment is provided by jazz dancers, including Andy Norman and Bill Drysdale, and the Tynes.

11.55 Film: Dan Candy's Law (1973). Canadian Mounted Police drama, with Donald Sutherland as the sergeant hunting for the Indian who killed his friend. Co-starring Kevin McCarthy, Francis Richette. Ends at 1.00 am.

## BBC 2

6.40 Open University. Today's subjects are Life on Seashores (at 6.40); Ecology (7.05) and Statistics: First Ideas (7.30). Open University programmes end at 7.55. At 11.00, Play School. Mary Dawson's story. Scorecrow Scallywag. With Cathy Jones, Leo Coo, Meg Nichol. 12.10 Once Upon a Time. The Golden Goose. With Peter Dawson. 12.30 Second Thoughts. New series begins. Education Ideas. Anyone, aged from 10 to 90. 1.00 News. 1.20 The News area. 1.30 The High Road. Trouble at the summit. 2.00 Afternoon Play: Facing the questions. Is Jo Grimond the former Liberal leader? 2.45 Snooker: More play in the Yamaha Organs Trophy (more at 11.00 pm).

4.15 Living on the Land: George Orwell, landlord of Yorkham's Bramham Park estate (7).

4.40 Around with Allister. Peter Allister talks to Bill McLaren and plays golf with him.

5.10 Score Reading: How to find your way through a musical score. 5.35 Weekend Outlook: Open University preview.

5.40 Film: Blackadder. The first of a series of films about the working of the House of Lords. Peers are interviewed (See Choice). 6.45 Sportsworld, with Desmond Lynam.

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## ITV/LONDON

9.35 For Schools. Reading with Lenny. How we Used to Live (8.47). Numbers programme (10.09). Physics in Action (10.35). River Channel Forms (10.43). Hills and Hares? (11.05). The qualities (11.22). Wheelies and Sneezes (11.34). 11.55 Comic Stories. 12.00 Song Book. With Kathy Jones, Leo Coo, Meg Nichol. 12.10 Once Upon a Time. The Golden Goose. With Peter Dawson. 12.30 Second Thoughts. New series begins. Education Ideas. Anyone, aged from 10 to 90. 1.00 News. 1.20 The News area. 1.30 The High Road. Trouble at the summit. 2.00 Afternoon Play: Facing the questions. Is Jo Grimond the former Liberal leader? 2.45 Snooker: More play in the Yamaha Organs Trophy (more at 11.00 pm).

4.15 Dr Snuggles: the inventor with Peter Ustinov's voice. 4.20 Bazzamazz: Pop music show. With Zulu, Gary Numan, Brendan Hickey and the Helen Sisters.

4.45 The Haunting of Cassie Palmer: Episode 2. The medium's daughter (Helen Probyn) pays a visit to a graveyard. She meets a stranger there (Geoffrey Rose).

5.15 Square One: The Joe Brown big band news. With Suzi Quatro and Simon Bates.

5.45 News. 6.00 The 6 o'Clock Show. Amusing news stories. The host is Michael Aspel.

6.30 The 6 o'Clock News. 7.00 Fanny Forster. Bob Monkhouse puts questions to the May hawks of Wells, Somerset, and the Whitties, of Folkestone.

7.30 Hawaii Five-O. Famous artist dies, and a series of murders follows. With Jack Lord as the private eye.

8.30 The Gaffer. Comedy series with Bill Maynard as the boss of a small engineering works. The bank gives him three days to pay off his overdraft — or else! And just when he thinks he has got his anarchist son on his hands, a cable arrives from Australia. Co-starring Russell Hunter, Pat Ashton.

9.00 We'll Meet Again. Episode three. The Second World War. The American Air Force is stationed in Suffolk. The niece of a London spy (Natalie Ogilvie) is terrified that her father will find out that she is in love with one of the American officers (Jeff Harding). Co-starring Susanah York and Michael J. Shannon.

10.00 News from ITN.

10.30 The London Programme: Sex Shops. The Government has introduced a Bill to allow local authorities to license sex shops. But would it work? Local people in Tottenham, Newham and Lambeth. Wells state their views about the sex shops. Bill White, Mary Whitehouse, Reg Race MP, Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, and representatives of the sex shops firm Congate.

11.00 Snooker: Highlights of today's play in the Embassy Organs Trophy, from Derby.

12.00 Police Story. Police investigate a rehabilitation home after a case of crimes. With Sam Groom in the title role.

12.30 Close: Wyndford Vaughan Thomas on the art of being Welsh.

## Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.20 Today. 6.30 Today in Parliament. 8.00 News. 8.05 Desert Island Discs. John Osborne, playwright. 9.45 Foodbook. 10.00 News. 10.02 International Assignment. 10.20 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story. "Hill Country" by Barrie Doherty. 11.00 News. 11.05 The True Cost of Fish. Bockle, a small fishing port of Scotland's north-east coast, and its experience of loss of fish and its people. The blue tit.

11.50 News. 12.00 News. 12.02 You and Yours. 12.27 My World Game. 1.00 The World at One. News. 1.40 The News. 2.00 News. 2.02 Women's Hour. 2.05 The 2 o'Clock News. 3.02 Afternoon Theatre. "The Salamander" by Geoffrey Meach. 4.05 Poetry Pledge. 4.10 Kennedy Justice. 4.15 Story Time. "Webb Fargo" by Harry Secombe. 5.00 PM News-Magazine. 5.30 The 3 o'Clock News. 6.30 Going Places. 7.00 News. 7.05 The News. 7.20 Pick of the Week. 8.10 Profile. A personal portrait. 8.15 Question Time. 9.15 News. 9.17 News from America by Alan Clark. 10.00 Kaleidoscope. 10.30 The News Tonight. 10.35 Week Ending. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime. "A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kenneth Toole. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 11.50 News. 12.00 News.

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